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Glamour goes in for the kill with animal-print designs, page 14

20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,233 WEDNESDAY APRIL 5 1995

Bottomley attacked over closures

Tory threat of revolt on hospitals

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY was last night facing a backbench Tory revolt over the closure of London hospitals after one of her former Cabinet colleagues accused her of lacking the "moral courage" to defend her decisions in the Commons.

The extraordinary attack came from Peter Brooke, the former National Heritage Secretary, after the Health Secretary confirmed plans to close St Bartholomew's, which was founded in 1123 and is the only hospital in the City of London.

Mrs Bottomley also confirmed that Guy's Hospital, founded in 1725, is to be run down, its accident and emergency department, however, has won a reprieve until the end of 1998.

The Health Secretary announced her decisions in a written Commons reply. Mr Brooke, MP for the City of London and Westminster South, told Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the Commons: "I hope you will allow me the licence to remark that the next time a secretary of state closes a hospital that is nearly 900 years old, the then secretary of state will have the moral courage to come to the dispatch box."

Mr Brooke was supported in the House by Sir John Goss, the Conservative MP for Hendon North, and it was clear last night that a sizeable number of Tory MPs have grave reservations about Mrs Bottomley's proposals.

The opposition parties plan to stage a Commons vote on the package after Easter and with the Government's major-



Bottomley: asked to show courage

ity down to 13, ministers are facing the prospect of an embarrassing defeat.

Sir John and Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North, said they would vote against the decision to close the accident and emergency department at Edgeware General Hospital. Sir John later accused ministers of "political lunacy, arrogance, stupidity, blindness and deafness".

John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary, also launched what appeared to be a thinly veiled attack on the Health Secretary. He told MPs at the Welsh Grand Committee that he was checking the pace of hospital closures in Wales because the public preferred local hospitals even if they were older and less well-equipped.

"I have asked the health authorities to slow down their passion for reorganising. It must be based on financial considerations," he said.

A spokesman for the Department of Health strongly defended Mrs Bottomley's handling of the affair last night, saying she had unveiled her initial strategy with an oral statement and that subsequent announcements had been made by written answer or by press notice.

It is understood that Mrs Bottomley had talks with Mr Brooke on Monday night. Her friends said she was the last person to be accused of lacking courage in pushing through a reorganisation that had been urged by health experts many times before, but had been ducked by successive governments.

The health spokesman said three debates on the future of London health services had been staged in the past six months, and ministers had kept MPs with a constituency interest fully informed.

Sir Rhodes said yesterday that his constituents faced a journey of up to an hour to get to their nearest accident and emergency department. "By the time they get there, most of them will be dead. I have told the whips I will vote against this and that they cannot count on my support in any other votes on healthcare in London."

Simon Hughes, one of the three chairmen of the Save Guy's campaign and the Liberal Democrat MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, condemned the decision to close the Guy's accident and emergency unit. He said about 15 Tory MPs were prepared to vote against the Government over its plans for Guy's — more than the Government's majority.



Nurses and doctors celebrate a reprieve until 1999 for the accident and emergency unit at Guy's Hospital in Southwark, south London

Cash-for-questions Tories face ban

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO Conservative MPs will be banned from the Commons after Easter for being prepared to accept £1,000 to table questions to ministers.

David Tredinnick and Graham Riddick will be suspended for four weeks and two weeks respectively if MPs endorse the recommendations of the Commons Privileges Select Committee. Their salaries will be docked by about £900 for Mr Riddick, MP for Colne Valley, and £1,800 for Mr Tredinnick, MP for Bosworth. Mr Tredinnick's punishment will be the heaviest imposed by MPs for nearly 50 years. The suspensions will cut the Government's majority to 11, but with

nine Tories deprived of the whip, in effect it will have a temporary minority of seven.

The report concluded that the behaviour of both MPs "fell below the standards which the House is entitled to expect from its members". Mr Tredinnick agreed yesterday that he had made mistakes and said he would apologise to the Commons when MPs debated the report.

William Walker, MP for Tayside North, who asked for £1,000 to be paid to a charity, was said by the report to have acted unwisely and to have made an error of judgment. No punishment was recommended.

As the recommendations were agreed by all parties on the committee, they are unlikely to be rejected by the

Commons, although the matter could be pushed to a vote. The report does not specify it, but suspension usually means that MPs are refused entry to the Commons Chamber and normally to the precincts of the Palace of Westminster altogether. There have been cases, however, in which MPs have been suspended from the Chamber but not the building.

The Commons Inquiry was launched in July after journalists from *The Sunday Times* approached more than 20 MPs offering to make payments on a consultancy basis.

The two MPs resigned as ministerial aides last summer, when newspaper disclosures about their conduct fuelled the long-running "sleaze" controversy and prompted John Major

to set up the Nolan inquiry into standards of conduct in public life. MPs have criticised the newspaper for trying to trap MPs into accepting payments, but the report does not suggest any sanctions against the journalists involved. It does conclude, however, that the newspaper's "conduct of its inquiries fell substantially below the standards to be expected of legitimate investigative journalism".

□ The criticism of *The Sunday Times* came on the day its Insight team won two British Press Awards. Team Journalism of the Year and Exclusive of the Year, for its exposure of the cash-for-questions affair.

MPs questioned, page 2
Politics, page 8

Clarke cools tax cut fever

Kenneth Clarke warned Tory MPs to stop flying kites as he sought to rein in expectations of big tax cuts over the next two years. The day after John Major hinted that he expected substantial cuts this November, Mr Clarke told colleagues that it would be "reckless" to write Budgets two or three years in advance. Page 2

Spain rejects EU fish peace deal

The fish war between Spain and Canada flared again when it became clear that Madrid's objections to a Monday-night EU draft deal offering Spain 8,000 tonnes of the Grand Banks catch were so profound, as to scupper the chances of a solution. Page 10

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BBC considers appeal to European Court over ban

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, ANDREW PIERCE AND JILL SHERMAN

THE BBC last night was considering an appeal to the European Court of Justice after losing its right to broadcast in Scotland a banned *Panorama* interview with John Major before tomorrow's Scottish local elections.

The BBC suffered its third courtroom defeat in 24 hours yesterday when it was refused the right to appeal against the ban to the House of Lords by three appeal court judges at the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court.

The decision sparked a bout of bitter recriminations within the BBC in London, which had been warned by BBC Scotland of the perils of a court challenge. Opposition parties claimed that the ruling had vindicated their complaints about the decision to screen the programme three days before the elections.

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary,

said: "This is a blow in favour of balanced public service broadcasting and also for the independence of the BBC. The Scottish law lords have strengthened the hand of the BBC against those who have sought to pressurise it."

Alasdair Milne, a former Director-General of the BBC, accused the corporation of "bizarre and dim-witted" behaviour in agreeing to the interview so close to an election. "The whole thing is a shambles. The BBC should have heeded the warnings from the Scots. To have put the BBC in this position, with the dangers of precedence the court decision has created, is crass idiocy. The BBC has knowingly exposed itself to the accusation that Mr Major was being given preferential treatment."

Lord Hope, the Lord President, Scotland's most senior judge, yesterday left the way

open for the Scottish courts to consider the issues of law raised by the hearing at a later date. Lord McCluskey and Lord Murray, said the issues were vital to the public interest in Scotland and England. There was no dispute that the Court of Session would have to consider them when there was time to listen to full argument.

At the Court of Session on Monday, Labour and the Liberal Democrats won a court order banning the broadcast.

The BBC said in a statement: "The BBC will continue to seek a way to ask the courts to test the underlying principle — and that is simply, who is to decide the content and timing of political programmes."

BBC's mistake, page 5
Letters, page 15
Leading article, page 15
Brenda Maddox, page 28

RAF's nuclear role to end in 1998

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE RAF is to lose its nuclear role after 42 years with the announcement yesterday that the WE177 freefall bomb is to be scrapped. The air-launched nuclear bombs will be withdrawn by the end of 1998, Nicholas Soames, Armed Forces Minister, said in a written Commons answer.

The Ministry of Defence had intended to keep the weapon until 2007.

The scrapping of an estimated 100 WE177 bombs means that Britain's nuclear deterrent will be represented by a single weapons system: the Trident ballistic missile bought from the United States. Malcolm Rifkind, Defence Secretary, said last year that Trident would take on a secondary sub-strategic role that would give the Royal Navy the twin responsibilities of providing both long and shorter-range nuclear deterrence.

The decision to bring forward the scrapping of the

WE177 is part of the Government's attempt "to show good faith" in meeting its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Negotiations to extend the treaty began in New York on April 17.

The WE177 bomb is carried by RAF Tornado GRI strike aircraft at a cost of £20 million a year. The RAF's first nuclear bomber was the Valiant, which became operational in 1956.

During the Cold War, RAF bombers were part of quick-reaction alert squadrons, but were never allowed to patrol with nuclear payload because of strict safety rules. In the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 the RAF's nuclear bomb-carrying aircraft were on red alert 24 hours a day.

By 1998 the Royal Navy will have three Trident ballistic missile submarines in service, HMS Vanguard, HMS Victorious, and HMS Vigilant.

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Kenny Everett, zany king of the DJs, dies of Aids

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

TRIBUTES poured in yesterday to Kenny Everett, the disc jockey with an outrageously manic sense of humour, who has died aged 50. Capital Radio's director of programmes described him as the best DJ Britain has produced.

Everett, best known for the catchphrase "all done in the best possible taste", disclosed in April 1993 that he had the HIV virus. The next day he joked with fans outside London's Capital Radio: "I'm dying, and you're calling for Tony Blackburn!" Asked how he would like to be remembered, he said: "I'll put on my gravestone, 'Ah Well'." Everett,

the son of a Mersey tug skipper, began his career recording shows in the garden shed. By 1967 he had joined BBC Radio 1, but in 1970 he was dismissed after an unscripted joke about the then Transport Minister's wife.

He left Radio Luxembourg the same year after admitting on air to having smoked marijuana. Once said to have been fired more times than a cannon, he was given his first television programme by London Weekend Television.

Married at 21 because he thought it would "turn him straight", he was talking openly by the mid-1980s, at the height of his popularity, about life with Nikolai Gribanovitch, a former Soviet soldier who died of an Aids-related illness two years

ago. Matthew Bannister, Controller of Radio 1, said yesterday: "Kenny Everett set the standard for creative pop radio. He was a great innovator, a wonderful manipulator of the medium and a genuinely funny man."

Richard Park, of Capital Radio, said: "Kenny Everett was the best DJ this country has produced. He was creative in the extreme, with a razor-sharp wit."

Chris Tarrant, the presenter, said: "The whole radio industry is deeply saddened. Kenny was with us at Christmas, still being optimistic and incredibly brave. He was the most original figure ever on British radio. He is totally irreplaceable."

Obituary, page 17



Everett: began career in garden shed

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New man comes of age with a kiss and a nibble



Prescott: sad milestone

AS THE Commons tottered towards its Easter break, John Prescott, one-time ship's steward and activist in the National Union of Seamen, halted tantalisingly before pressing on to pass yet another sad milestone in his rags-to-riches progress from real to plastic politics. The sad milestone was Mr Prescott's very first soundbite. The tantalising pause beforehand was when Labour's Deputy Leader blew a kiss at Employment Minister Ann Widdecombe.

It was a breath of fresh air: the old, working-class, devil-may-care Prescott that we all remember, taunting a bossy Tory lady, Prescott had just entered the Chamber to deputise for Tony Blair at Prime Minister's Questions. When Major is away, the House Leader, Tony Newton, answers for him; so Blair



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

sends his own stand-in and the occasion becomes a duel between seconds. In magnificent form yesterday, the terrifying Miss Widdecombe had been ranting statistics all afternoon. Catching sight of Prescott, she tossed in a slighting reference to the admission he once made that Labour's minimum wage would cause a "shake out" in the Labour market.

If a water bed (queen-size) were to rise up and walk, it would look, and move, like Miss Widdecombe. A woman of her build should never attempt a derisive toss of the upper-torso while shouting "shake-out". Adjacent MPs flinched in horror as, for a

moment, Miss Widdecombe's shake-out appeared an all too real possibility. Mercifully, all stayed safely gathered in.

The minister went on: it was British workers who would be "shaken" by Prescott's minimum wage, she yelled; and it was their jobs they would be "out" of.

Taking his seat, John Prescott looked up at her, leered, and blew her a cheeky little kiss. It was painful to be reminded what fun the Hull MP they used to call the Mouth of the Humber, once was. No longer. His tailors have now made him a jacket with Tony vents, and trousers with turn-ups. This we could

bear if New Labour's teenage spin-doctors had not been to work on the speech as well as the department of the class war.

The last time Prescott appeared at Prime Minister's Questions in his leader's place, the PR pixies had made him read his questions out — so there was no danger that a piece of unscripted Prescottian prose might invade prime-time TV.

This time it was worse. They had actually fashioned a soundbite for him.

Mr Prescott's double-barrelled question, about the Government's increases in personal taxation, was designed as a setting within which this pearl was to be displayed. As he neared the end of the second stage of his inquiry, he drew himself up, paused, and, ever-so slightly self-consciously, bellowed

"People now know" (the camera swivelled) "that when it comes to tax" (wait for it!) "YOU CAN NEVER TRUST A TORY".

Boom-boom! His first soundbite! The man who has given us sound-chews, sound-gobbles and sound-munches galore, but never anything so compact as a bite had finally done it. It was like junior's first shave. John Prescott's political testicles have dropped. Farewell to the politics of boyhood. Farewell to dockside rallies and rainy streets of Hull. Farewell the seafaring trades unions. Farewell workers' rights and the class struggle.

Hello to the world of AutoCue and camera angle of powder puffs and media poofs of buzz-words, bo-words, key phrases and — yes — soundbites. Welcome to New Labour, John!

Minister considers tests for pupils aged five

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Government is considering testing five-year-olds as they start school so that their progress can be measured more accurately, Eric Forth, the Education Minister, disclosed yesterday.

Children are already tested at seven, 11 and 14. Basic assessment at five, which has been introduced in Birmingham, would enable teachers to judge the capabilities of children entering full-time education and provide a yardstick to gauge the performance of primary schools.

Mr Forth told a conference in London that tests were being considered as part of a plan to offer pre-school places to all four-year-olds. They might be introduced in tandem with a national curriculum for pre-school education attracting state support.

The proposal received immediate support from Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, who said teachers wanted more information on what children could do when they started school. "I find a lot of interest in baseline tests for the development of 'value added' but there is quite a lot of nervousness about inappropriate tests being developed in a rush."

Testing at seven, 11 and 14 prompted a boycott by teaching unions, which has been lifted completely only this year. But David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, has already raised the possibility of extending the practice to the younger age group.

The Prime Minister's promise of a pre-school place for every four-year-old has prompted political in-fighting among groups championing alternative models of provision. At the second conference on the subject in less than a month, organised by the Conservative think-tank, the Centre for Policy Studies, Mr Forth stressed the complexity of decisions facing ministers.

He suggested that conventional teaching qualifications might not be needed in state-approved nurseries and raised a number of possible obstacles to the introduction of vouchers for pre-school provision. If there was a mismatch between the demand from parents and the supply of places, the "virtues and joys" of vouchers would disappear.

Clifford Shephard, the Education Secretary, added to the scepticism over vouchers at a Conservative local-elections press conference. She suggested that a bidding system for new nursery places would be preferable because this could be introduced more quickly than vouchers.

Irish force criticised for Dublin soccer riot

A series of blunders by Irish police in the run-up to the riot by English football fans in Dublin in February was highlighted yesterday by the official inquiry into the disturbance. Thomas Finlay, a former Irish Chief Justice, criticised Dublin police for turning down an offer from English police to help to identify troublemakers.

He also highlighted the Garda's failure to pass warnings about the hooligans to the Football Association of Ireland. But the former judge blamed a hardcore of English fans for orchestrating the violence, which forced the abandonment of the friendly match between England and the Republic of Ireland. Twenty people were injured and 40 arrested.

Cantona loses home

Eric Cantona, the beleaguered French football star turned piscine philosopher turned community worker, suffered another setback yesterday when he lost his home.

The Cantona family must leave their rented house in Boothstown, Salford, by midnight tonight after negotiations for Manchester United to buy the £80,000 house broke down.

The property's owner wants to sell up and asked his management agents to serve notice on his tenants.

Spending 'caps' hit 8 councils

The Government aims to cap the spending of ten English authorities including eight councils. The councils have 28 days to decide whether they will accept the caps announced yesterday.

They are Somerset, Devon, Gloucestershire and Shropshire County Councils, Sheffield, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Norwich city councils and Barnsley Borough Council, Lincolnshire Police Authority and South Yorkshire Civil Defence and Fire Authority will also be capped.

Military survey

A five-year survey of every 20th century military installation in Britain was launched yesterday at the Imperial War Museum in London. The completed list will be passed to English Heritage and other preservation groups with the aim of giving the more important sites similar protection to listed buildings.

Illegal rescuers

A fleet of 19 Canadian-built ambulances has been taken off the road by the East Anglian Ambulance NHS Trust after they were found to be illegally overloaded when carrying a patient. The £40,000 Canada TriStar vehicles have been in service for two years but are now in storage while the trust consults its lawyers.

Demi decent

A poster showing Demi Moore in a steamy embrace with Michael Douglas publicising the film *Disclosure* is not indecent, the Advertising Standards Authority has decided. The watchdog ruled that the pose showed a scene relevant to the nature and plot of the film and was not gratuitous. The poster attracted 71 complaints.

Times awards

The Times has won two of the prestigious silver medals awarded annually by the American Society of Newspaper Design. They were for an informational graphic of the Baltic ferry disaster by Geoffrey Sims, David Hart, Tony Garrett and Paul Bryant and The Times guide to the Channel tunnel by Geoffrey Sims.

Clarke tells MPs to stop talking up tax cuts

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE warned Conservative MPs last night that talking up expectations of big tax cuts and increases in spending over the next two years could damage the Government's reputation for sound economic management.

The day after John Major hinted that he expected substantial cuts this November and next, an alarmed Chancellor of the Exchequer told his backbench colleagues to stop "flying kites" about taxation and to avoid stoking ambitions that could not be fulfilled. His remarks were clearly intended to kill off speculation that he was ready to consider a three-year "rolling" programme of tax cuts.

He has told colleagues that it would be "reckless" to write Budgets two or three years in advance. While Mr Clarke's aides insisted he was not criticising the Prime Minister, there is irritation in the Treasury at the way Mr Major's interview on *Panorama* on BBC Television has been interpreted as confirmation that two years of cuts are certain.

Mr Clarke told members of the Tory backbench finance committee at a private meeting that they should not think tax cuts were "in the bag" and that the Government's reputation for running the economy would be destroyed if, after years of sound management, people suddenly started talk-

ing about three years of cuts and big rises in spending. The Government had to maintain its policy of controlling public spending and judgments about how far it could go in cutting tax could only be made Budget by Budget.

He had earlier seen the officers of the committee and given them a similar warning against talking up tax hopes. John Townsend, chairman of the committee, said Mr Clarke had impressed on MPs that they should not be "talking about specific tax cuts by a specific date".

Ministers clearly fear that the electoral impact of tax cuts will be discounted in advance unless they dampen excitement now. The weekend headlines about three-year rolling programmes of tax cuts and decisions to increase spending next year on education by an extra £1 billion were not only inaccurate but damaging, Mr Clarke said.

The Chancellor has been growing increasingly worried about the series of reports and interviews in which Tory backbenchers have spoken of the inevitability of tax cuts. He told them that if they kept "whooping up" suggestions of tax cuts and spending increases they would put paid to the Government's reputation for competence.

Gordon Brown, page 14

Taped replies given as evidence to MPs' hearing

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOURNALISTS from *The Sunday Times*, posing as businessmen, approached more than 20 MPs, asking if they would take on a consultancy role and ask questions in the Commons. The following responses, mostly from recorded conversations, were given to the Commons Privileges Committee.

Conservative MPs David Tredinnick (Bosworth) Jonathan Calvert (Northampton) and Sir John Gort (Hendon) if they were interested in a sort of longer term relationship, public relations/public affairs advice, that would be more in my field. I've quite prepared to ask the question and forgetting any question of a retainer or anything like that. I'll.

Richard Tracey (Surrey) My role in the public affairs company really is an advisory one and I personally don't go in for specific lobbying, you



Tredinnick and Riddick: the two MPs will be suspended from the Commons

any reason for that? Walker: I never do. I just decide which charity things go to. No, I don't take payment for anything I do.

Sir John Gort (Hendon) if they were interested in a sort of longer term relationship, public relations/public affairs advice, that would be more in my field. I've quite prepared to ask the question and forgetting any question of a retainer or anything like that. I'll.

Richard Tracey (Surrey) My role in the public affairs company really is an advisory one and I personally don't go in for specific lobbying, you

know, in the sense of nobbling ministers, but of course the company can help you in making contacts with them. Teresa Gorman (Billesley) You must go to your local MP. Goodbye.

James Pawsey (Rugby & Kenilworth) No. In the first instance you should talk to your local MP.

Norman Hogg (Cumbernauld & Kilsyth) "Well, it is not really my field at all. I do not know who could help you with that. I just honestly don't know."

Nic Raynsford (Greenwich):

Sunday Times takes press awards

The *Sunday Times* Insight team, which exposed the cash-for-questions affair, won Team Journalism of the Year and Exclusive of the Year in the British Press Awards last night. Journalists from the paper posed as businessmen to offer payments for parliamentary questions. The paper said Insight was the first team to receive two accolades in the 25-year history of the awards. Anatole Lieven, a *Times* correspondent in the former Soviet Union, was highly commended as Stringer of the Year, and Simon Jenkins, of *The Times* was highly commended as Columnist of the Year.

Clinton greets Major with assurance over relations with London

US senators link IRA arms to investment

FROM PETER RIDDELL IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN congressional leaders have raised with John Major the possibility of linking international investment in Northern Ireland with the IRA decommissioning its arms.

President Clinton yesterday greeted the Prime Minister at the White House with the assurance that relations with Britain were "very good and strong". This was the first meeting between the two leaders since their disagreement last month over Mr Clinton's White House welcome for Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader.

Mr Major is interested in the idea of payments from the proposed international investment fund being dependent on the decommissioning of IRA arms. However, he is publicly cautious: the Government regards such investment and the decommissioning of arms as separate questions, and Mr

Major is in any case reluctant to become involved in domestic American politics.

The proposed linkage, put forward by the Republican leadership in the Senate, has not been backed by the Clinton administration. The idea, which may involve an amendment to the legislation authorising the fund, has been mentioned to Mr Major in Washington by Senator Robert Dole, the Republican majority leader, and yesterday, at a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by Senator Paul Sarbanes, a prominent Democrat. The proposed International Fund for Ireland will be backed by the US Government with a current estimated investment of \$20 million (about £12.5 million).

During his meetings in Washington, Mr Major has been questioned about the peace process in Northern Ireland by members of the



Helms: praised ally

Administration and congressional leaders.

As he began his discussions yesterday with Mr Clinton the Prime Minister said it was "very important to keep relations with America in good and fresh repair". This meant, he said, coming to America to talk. He emphasised the range

of agreement with the Clinton administration on foreign policy and trade and economic issues, including Bosnia, the enlargement of Nato, relations with Russia and sanctions against Iraq. The only disagreements have been over some congressional leaders over the arms embargo on the Bosnian Government and some critical questioning over Ireland from a few congressmen.

Mr Major said after a meeting with senators yesterday that he was "unconcerned by occasional differences popping up between two such close allies". Senator Jesse Helms, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said that Britain was "America's most reliable ally".

Mr Major also spent an hour yesterday discussing policy ideas with Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives and prime mover behind the Republicans' radical *Contract with America*

programme. Afterwards, Mr Major described the talks as "extremely interesting" but kept his distance from Mr Gingrich's controversial programme, declining to say what he had learnt. Instead, he emphasised that his own Government had "a series of ideas across the whole range for 1997 and beyond".

Earlier, Mr Gingrich had referred to close relations between the Republicans and the British Conservatives. He was much more effusive in describing Anglo-American relations than Mr Major, who has sought to describe the trip in a business-like way.

Four men linked to the republican terrorist Irish National Liberation Army group were arrested in Co. Dublin yesterday. A number of guns were found. Unlike the IRA, the INLA has not called a ceasefire.

Gingrich tax deal, page 11
Diary, page 14

Mixed jail scheme ends after four years

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE prison service has halted the first attempt to mix men and women in a jail in England and Wales. In spite of praise for the project by Judge Stephen Tummim. The scheme, at Risley in Cheshire, was stopped "for evaluation purposes".

Men and women at the jail had taken part in a disco, concerts and art exhibitions and women prisoners had acted as models on the men's hairdressing course. The scheme was instigated in 1990 and, a prison service spokeswoman said, was halted "quite recently".

Risley includes separate jails for men

and women, but because of the lack of facilities for women in 1990 they began to share the education centre and gym in the men's prison. In recent months men had shared the women's prison pre-release unit and there had been mixed classes in cookery, craft and computers. There had also been mixed concerts, art exhibitions and a disco, as well as men and women working together to produce the prisoners' magazine.

A report to the Home Office by Judge Tummim, the chief inspector of prisons, says: "Women prisoners had acted as models on the men's hairdressing course while men on the industrial cleaning course had instructed the inmate cleaners in the women's prison."

He adds: "From what we observed, and from what staff and prisoners told us, it was clear that what was being developed in this area was advantageous to the growth of the regime and to the prisoners who were participating."

News of the project's demise came as Michael Howard increased prison governors' powers to extend sentences as punishment for increasing disciplinary offences. In a written reply to MPs, the Home secretary said: "These powers will act as a greater deterrent to prisoners allow governors to punish the more serious offences properly; reduce the number of cases referred to the police and maintain confidence in the disciplinary system."

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One MP's cowardice is another's foolhardiness



Clwyd: used to peril

THE two Labour frontbenchers sacked by Tony Blair yesterday decided not to go gentle into that good night of the backbenches, but to rage against the dying of the spotlight by abusing each other in a public brawl.

Ann Clwyd and Jim Cousins left on their unauthorised trip to Turkey and Iraq as friends. But yesterday she accused him of "bleating and whimpering" like a coward when the two came under fire. Ignoring Kipling's advice to "keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you", Mr Cousins snapped back that she was conducting "Clwyd Loony Tours" by ignoring danger.

The two MPs flew out to examine Kurdish areas of Turkey and Iraq last week without the permission of

party whips and missed key votes on the Disability Discrimination Bill. On their return, both were banished from the front benches after two meetings with a furious Mr Blair.

Like those couples on Cilla Black's *Blind Date* who return from a week away with wildly diverging memories of what went on between them, Ms Clwyd and Mr Cousins then compounded the acrimony by retelling markedly different accounts of what transpired on their five days abroad together.

According to Ms Clwyd, Mr Cousins had been avoiding her and fled the country without stopping to meet their hosts. As Mr Cousins sees it, she has been making "histrionic" and inaccurate remarks to the press about the trip.

What incensed Ms Clwyd were suggestions by Mr Cousins in newspaper articles that he had stayed on

the trip to protect her in a "dangerous area". In a BBC radio interview she fumed: "He gave the impression he went to Turkey and Iraq to protect me. That is absolutely ludicrous because he spent a lot of time bleating and whimpering—in effect, I had to hold his hand. Indeed, when we came under fire and tried to get into a city where Saddam Hussain was attacking the Iraqi Kurds, he didn't want to go in. I would say he panicked under fire in Iraq."

Ms Clwyd, never knowingly tongue-tied, said she was used to the area's perils because she had been there before as a refugee fled across the mountains. "I just find it incredible that he came back 12 hours early because he said that he had to get home. He rushed off without saying goodbye to people."

"He didn't see the Turkish Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary after he returned to Ankara. He just leapt on a plane via Frankfurt. Over the last two days he has avoided me. He has refused to return my calls."

A wounded Mr Cousins, interviewed on BBC Radio Newcastle, recalled events rather differently: "When firing broke out on the road in front of us I was quite clear we were not going down that road. I stopped us going any further. Someone had to take the decisions and face up to our responsibilities. I did."

"I don't know what on earth she was doing getting us in a situation in which we were 150 miles by road from the Turkish border on the frontline of an extremely nasty civil war between Kurdish war lords who had managed to kill and injure hundreds of their own people three days before we were there. There is a limit to foolhardiness and at some point common sense has to begin."

From that extreme point of Clwyd Loony Tours I headed straight for home. The reason for doing so was because my wife was extremely upset after I spoke to her by satellite radio and wanted to see me again."

With the gun still smoking in his hand, Mr Cousins then criticised press releases from the Clwyd camp that were sent out bearing his name: "In the course of one histrionic press release we were told that 'the shelling flashed red throughout the sky'. It's only a small point but they don't flash red, they flash blue. It is important to me to get that kind of thing right."

Still smarting from his colleague's accusations of cowardice, he said: "I took the decision to go back. If she chooses to call that bleating and whimpering then I think she has a very funny idea of what are sensible decisions and what are not."



Cousins: wife was upset

Parents told after man discovers body near motorway outside Bristol

Remains in grave may be missing east London boy

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE believe that they have found the body of Daniel Handley, the nine-year-old missing from east London since October, in a shallow grave near motorway junctions outside Bristol.

Yesterday both Avon and Somerset police and Scotland Yard said the remains would take up to ten days to identify, but both Daniel's mother and father, who are separated, have been told of the discovery. Police sources say items of clothing found near the body indicate that it could be Daniel.

The remains were discovered last week when a man walking his dog on waste ground at Winterbourne, Avon, uncovered a skull. The spot is a few miles south of where junction 20 of the M4 meets junction 15 of the M5.

As police began to search the area they discovered bones that had been buried in a shallow grave, which was probably disturbed by heavy rain. Examination suggests that the child has been buried for less than two years. A pathologist has confirmed that the remains are those of a child aged between nine and

12 but the sex is not known. Avon and Somerset police have no record of a missing child in that age group, and sent details to other forces, including Scotland Yard. Then Avon and Somerset contacted the incident room opened last year in east London when Daniel, who lived in Beckton with his mother Maxine Handley, 37, and her boyfriend Alexander Joseph, 21, vanished after leaving a friend's home on his BMX bicycle.

More than 100 police were drafted in to search east London last year after Daniel disappeared. The boy was described as street-wise by detectives, who also said he was trusting and would sometimes get lifts home from strangers after earning money helping people with their shopping at a local supermarket. It later emerged that someone tried to snatch a child at the Ellen Wilkinson Primary School, a quarter of a mile from where Daniel lived, the week before he disappeared. Daniel attended a different school.

Witnesses also told police

they had seen a boy on a bicycle talking to two men in a silver car on the night that Daniel vanished. One was in his 20s and the other in his 40s.

Police also examined the possibility that the boy might have run away from home after he complained to a friend that he was unhappy there and asked to stay at his house. It was thought he might have been trying to return to his real father, who lives in Dagenham, east London.

Daniel's bike was discovered 200 yards from his home hours after he was reported missing. Detectives dug up the garden of the house where he lived and that of another house in Beckton, where Mrs Handley had lived with her estranged husband David, 39.

Mrs Handley said at the time of his disappearance: "You never know what it's like until it happens to you. You cannot imagine the pain you go through when your child goes missing."

Mrs Handley and her boyfriend are due to appear before magistrates in east London later this month on child sex charges.



David Handley, Daniel's father, with a photograph of his missing son, right

'Hassled' EastEnders says he was victim of club attack

By A STAFF REPORTER



Owen: reduced to tears by his producer's praise

THE actor who plays Ricky Butcher in the BBC soap, *EastEnders*, told a court yesterday that he had been the victim of an unprovoked attack in a nightclub — one of the "hassles" of being a well-known television personality.

Sid Owen, who said he was punched in the nose and mouth by Mark Falshaw, an estate agent, denies wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. The prosecution at Snaresbrook Crown Court alleges he smashed a beer glass on Mr Falshaw's head at the Epping Forest Country Club in Essex. On the second day of his trial, Mr Owen, 23, from Wanstead,

east London, who also denies an alternative charge of unlawful wounding, said he walked away from physical violence "because my work does not tolerate that".

He agreed with his counsel, Oliver Blunt QC, that being in the public eye all the time had advantages and disadvantages. He told the court: "I knew before I went into it that it was a popular show so I was going to get hassled. People remark on my character. I don't play the most intelligent character in the world so I get people calling me 'thick Rick' and things like that. I had a lot of abuse. It is just something I have to cope with."

He said he had known Mr Falshaw

for some years and regarded him as a friend and an acquaintance, although he could become "quite rowdy". He saw Mr Falshaw with a woman called Eleanor Moulton at the club. He went up to them and started a "friendly chat". He said Mr Falshaw seemed very drunk.

The mood changed and Mr Falshaw began calling him names making obscene hand gestures. "I said, 'You're pissed', and stepped back."

Mr Owen said Mr Falshaw immediately "came straight for me and punched me straight in the mouth, on the top of my lip and on the nose". He then tried to head-butt him. In an effort to protect himself the actor put his

hands in front of his face, still holding his glass, which fell to the floor.

Mr Owen was later reduced to tears when Corinne Hollingworth, the producer of *EastEnders*, told the court that Mr Owen was "very unassuming, a quiet, gentle and kind boy, who has not taken to his fame very easily".

Judge Andrew Brooks, apparently unaware of Mr Owen's distress in the dock, then provoked laughter when he asked Miss Hollingworth: "What is Sharon's fate?" He was referring to the unfaithful and estranged wife of the programme's hard man, Grant Mitchell. The producer responded: "Do I really have to answer that?" The case continues.



Gemma Fry: in hospital

British Psychological Society: pet theory and the waking nightmare of operations

Animals are best friends for ambitious humans

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HIGHLY competitive people are more likely to keep pets than those who are less ambitious and more laid-back, psychologists have found. For those who live in the fast lane and are seeking recognition, a pet has one great advantage over a human companion — it doesn't answer back.

Julie McNicholas and Glyn Collis, psychologists at the University of Warwick, told the British Psychological Society conference that those which they classified as type-A personalities found pets easier to handle than people. Type-A people are competitive and ambitious. They strive to achieve their goals and fear failure. They are distinguished from the more relaxed type Bs because they are more prone to heart disease and other stress-related illnesses.

Julie McNicholas said type-A people were poor at comforting others, showing affection, or making

friends. With a pet they could display affection. "A dog would never say to you 'Pull yourself together', she said.

In a study conducted in Coventry among 540, they discovered that more type-A personalities had pets. Miss McNicholas said: "Type A don't like to admit to weakness. Offloading your problems on to an animal that isn't going to judge you may be beneficial."

Pets offer a valuable cushion against the unreliability of human support. Miss McNicholas said: "The difficulties with human relationships is that they are not dependable. My partner may be having a bad day. That won't happen with a pet. They are not going to judge you or say 'Enough is enough, I'm leaving'."

Miss McNicholas, who owns six Dobermans, a cat, three ferrets and four giant snails, said pet owners had busier social lives and were better at dealing with crises.

"People talk to you when you have a pet. Introductions made by pets have led to marriage."

She said further studies were needed to examine whether type-A people chose exotic breeds in order to make a social impression. "That is a whole unexplored area," she said.

Miss McNicholas said people followed fashions in pets as they did in cars or clothes. "Fifteen years ago it was seen as macho to have a German shepherd. Then it switched to dobermans, then to rottweilers and pit-bull terriers. It's not the dog, it's what people want to project through the dog. If you want a vicious dog, you make it vicious. They don't come ready made."

John Major does not own a dog, according to a Downing Street spokesman, who said: "As far as I know Mr Major has never owned an animal during his adult life."

Half of patients may be awake during surgery

By JEREMY LAURANCE

HALF of all surgery patients may be awake during their operation even though they have no memory of it, a psychologist claimed yesterday.

He said that levels of wakefulness under anaesthetics varied and that some patients would be able to communicate with the surgeons were they not also given muscle relaxant drugs to paralyse the body to stop it from twitching during delicate surgery.

Studies at Royal Hull Hospitals NHS Trust, in which a tourniquet was applied to patients' forearms to prevent the paralysing drugs reaching the hand, showed that anaesthetised patients could answer yes or no questions about how they felt by opening or closing their fingers.

Dr Michael Wang, clinical director of the Department of Psychology at Hull University, who conducted the research with Dr Ian Russell, a consultant anaesthetist, said: "Half of the patients on every

operating list show evidence of wakefulness. If you tell them to squeeze their hand they will."

Dr Wang told the annual conference of the British Psychological Society at the University of Warwick that few patients remembered the experience or felt pain but that there were anecdotal reports of patients suffering nightmares after operations. "It is possible to be in a state where you experience things moment to moment but don't remember them," he said.

"We don't know the psychological consequences. There may be millions of people suffering the after-effects of surgery. It is one of the big open questions medicine choose to ignore. The problem is, people think you are either asleep or awake when there is actually a continuum."

Dr Wang warned that patients should not be put off surgery by the findings but urged anaesthetists to take more care to measure aware-

ness during surgery. He called for wider use of the method of isolating the forearm to detect levels of awareness, especially in obstetrics and gynaecology operations, in which lower doses of anaesthetics are used.

Estimates by the Association of Anaesthetists suggest that 1 per cent of surgical patients remember events during operations of which they should not have been aware. "Even 1 per cent is a significant number given the millions of operations carried out each year. The forearm technique is a more sensitive way of picking up levels of consciousness," Dr Wang said.

Mothers are being sent home from hospital too soon after giving birth, a development psychologist at the University of East London claims. Dr Anne Woollett said that 40 years ago women stayed in hospital for an average of 13 days. "No woman wants to go back to that, but the balance may have swung too far," she said.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Men, and supermen

SUMMER '95: THE 44-PAGE FASHION GUIDE FOR MEN

IN THE MAGAZINE

FOUR WEDDINGS TO WIN — INCLUDING A CARIBBEAN HONEYMOON

IN WEEKEND

WHATEVER IT TAKES

Good morning. Want to be here tomorrow?

Here's a little something we've learnt. Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion.

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If your competition does 50 push-ups, you do 51. If they go the extra mile, you go the extra 10. If they are fast, be faster. If they are smart, be brilliant. If they have the bigger hammer, you have the sharper nail.

Don't solve problems, anticipate them. Don't promise results, get them. Treat every challenge as an opportunity in work clothes.

Know that well done is better than well said. That it is not just the hours you put in, but what you put into the hours.

Let others dream of worthy accomplishments. That's okay. You stay awake and do them. Believe you can't be beaten and you won't. Believe that there is plenty of room at the top, but not enough to sit down.

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How the
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Major in

Full trial onl
way to revers
judges' ruling

Mormons put
Britain for 'day

Panorama challenge

How the BBC fell into a trap over Major interview

By ANDREW PIERCE

FEW members of the Panorama team shared the enthusiasm of Tony Hall, the BBC's managing director of news and current affairs, for the deal he struck to secure the Prime Minister's first appearance on the programme since the general election.

The ground had been prepared in a series of telephone calls between Mr Hall and Chris Meyer, the Downing Street press secretary. Over lunch in a Westminster restaurant three weeks ago the long-standing invitation was renewed. Within days Mr Meyer telephoned Mr Hall with a convenient date, April 3 — only three days before the Scottish local elections.

Nobody at the Panorama studio at White City, west London, was under any illusion why Mr Major had finally accepted the invitation. The Prime Minister was in deep trouble at the polls, and like Mrs Thatcher during the Westland crisis, decided to take up a Panorama invitation as part of a media onslaught.

Mr Hall, acutely aware of the sensitive timing of the programme in the aftermath of criticism of the BBC as "Blair's Broadcasting Corporation" by Jonathan Aitken,



Hall: enthusiastic

the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, took personal responsibility for handling the Prime Minister's acceptance.

BBC Scotland reacted swiftly when the decision became known in the week beginning March 19. Ken Cargill, Mr Hall's opposite number, warned of a political backlash and a likely court challenge. Mr Cargill's objections were carefully considered in meetings at Broadcasting House between Mr Hall, David Jordan, the BBC's political adviser, and Richard Ayre, the controller of editorial policy.

Nick Robinson, the deputy editor of Panorama, sounded out colleagues and then

penned the leaked memorandum spelling out in graphic detail the dangers of proceeding with the interview.

Mr Robinson warned that the BBC had to "have the line right" when the inevitable objections from the other political parties came in. The memorandum, written on Thursday, March 23, was leaked to The Times by a disillusioned BBC employee on the following Wednesday.

The memorandum had gone to Tim Gardam, the head of weekly programmes, Steve Hewlett, editor of Panorama, Mr Hall and Mr Jordan, but 30 people work on the programme and the memo found its way into The Times office in the House of Commons the following week. It was only when the story was leaked that John Birt, the BBC's Director-General, became involved.

The memorandum, coupled with the atmosphere of suspicion created by Mr Aitken's offensive — which had been backed by the Prime Minister — produced a "combination of accidents" according to one BBC executive, which turned what would have been a routine 24-hour political row into a crisis. "It was a gift for Labour and the SNP," said one BBC official.

Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary, was determined to flex his muscles. "He wanted to let it be known that it's not only the Tories who can get tough with the BBC," one BBC official said.

As the day of the court case drew nearer, Labour, buoyed by the advice of some of its Scottish frontbenchers with legal backgrounds, seemed victory. BBC Scotland was equally alive to the danger. However, the views of Mr Hall and Mr Ayre prevailed. With local elections not being held in England and Wales until May 4 they argued strongly that it militated against the public interest for the programme to be denied an interview with the Prime Minister for six weeks.

They also feared that to rescind the invitation to Mr Major would provoke a furore among Tories. Mr Hall believed, with the backing of Mr Birt, that the courts would not challenge the BBC's right to choose who to put on its programmes.

BBC Scotland was not so sure. One of the people who brought the court action, Pat Chalmers, a Liberal Democrat candidate in the elections, is a former BBC controller in Scotland. He is no friend of Mr Birt's. But such was the confidence in London that the BBC would win that no alternative was scheduled for the Panorama slot until minutes before transmission. "We were stunned when we lost and we are still stunned now," said the executive. "We got this one badly wrong."

The Conservatives may fail to win any seats in the Scottish local elections, some political observers believe. Tory canvassers report a 50 per cent drop in positive returns for East Renfrewshire, the only one of the 29 new single-tier local authorities the party was expected to control.

Appeal refused, page 1
Leading article, page 15
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Full trial only way to reverse judges' ruling

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is expected to seek a definitive legal ruling to clarify what it called the "dangerous precedent" set by the halting of Monday's Panorama interview with the Prime Minister.

Lawyers predicted yesterday that the injunction granted by Scottish judges would open the floodgates to legal actions by individuals or political parties seeking to influence coverage.

The BBC having been refused leave to go to the House of Lords, the only avenue open for the corporation is to have the issues judged at a full trial, which will not take place until after Thursday's Scottish local elections. The original timing of the programme had been central to the issue.

One lawyer said: "This decision is astonishing. The BBC has never before been successfully judicially reviewed by the courts. The BBC has a duty to be impartial under its charter and licence, but this duty is owed to the Home Secretary and the Government, not to individuals or political parties." The corporation is not under a statutory duty to be impartial.

The decision to grant an injunction by Lord Abernethy, later upheld by three Appeal Court judges, creates a new duty to be impartial which might be invoked by any individual, the lawyer added. He said that it was questionable whether the opposition parties had any basis for their claim. "Every time a politician



Beloff: saw legal basis

is unhappy with coverage, he will go off to the courts."

But Michael Beloff, QC, said he saw the legal basis of the judges' decision. "Those seeking an interim injunction would only have to establish an arguable case and persuade the judges on the test of the balance of convenience," he said. "If an election was imminent, and they could argue that the interview was not dissimilar in impact to a party political broadcast, they would have an arguable case for its postponement."

Lord Hope said the three judges were not impressed by the BBC's argument that it was anxious to broadcast the programme quickly, before it lost topicality. "An important point of law" had been raised which could not be definitively decided at this stage. The process could not be completed in time for the programme to be shown before the poll.

Mormons put down roots in Britain for 'day of adversity'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Mormon church will announce today the purchase of more than 5,000 acres of land in Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk that brings its holdings of British farmland to more than 10,000 acres. This time last year the total was 300 acres.

The Mormons, officially the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, are based in Utah and are building up their British land base in case of "adversity", according to the church's president, Gordon Hinckley.

Today's agreement to buy land from the Kleinwort Benson Farmland Trust for an undisclosed price takes in 1,385 acres at Sleaford, Lincolnshire, 1,492 acres at Wiggenhall, Norfolk, and 2,282 acres at Saxmundham, Suffolk. Last August the Mormons bought 4,600 acres in the Cambridge area from the BBC's Arcland Farms. The church has owned a 300-acre

dairy farm in the Midlands since 1980.

The Mormons, who have 170,000 members in 40 regional centres or "stakes" in this country and nine million members in 150 countries worldwide, own many thousands of acres in different countries, including a 250,000-acre ranch in Florida. The farms are part of the expanding church welfare programme, run from headquarters in Salt Lake City.

Mr Hinckley said the church had "fostered a doctrine of self-reliance and preparedness against a day of adversity". He said: "We're not predicting that such a day will come but we do believe in preparedness. We think it's a good policy for individuals and families, and we think it's a good policy for the church."

He said food was "a necessity for all of humankind, and food comes from the

earth". The farms stood as "a possible hedge against a day of adversity". He went on: "We have felt that good farms, over a long period, represent a safe investment where the assets of the church may be preserved and enhanced, while at the same time they are available as an agricultural resource to feed people, should there come a time of need."

The farms produce income for the church and contribute to humanitarian aid for disaster areas such as Rwanda and Bosnia.

The Mormon church was founded in New York in 1830 by Joseph Smith after he claimed to have discovered a text, printed on golden plates, buried on his parents' farm. His followers were driven westwards and settled in Utah in about 1847. The oldest continuous branch of the church is in Preston, Lancashire.

Child B doctor pursues experimental cure

By RICHARD DUCE

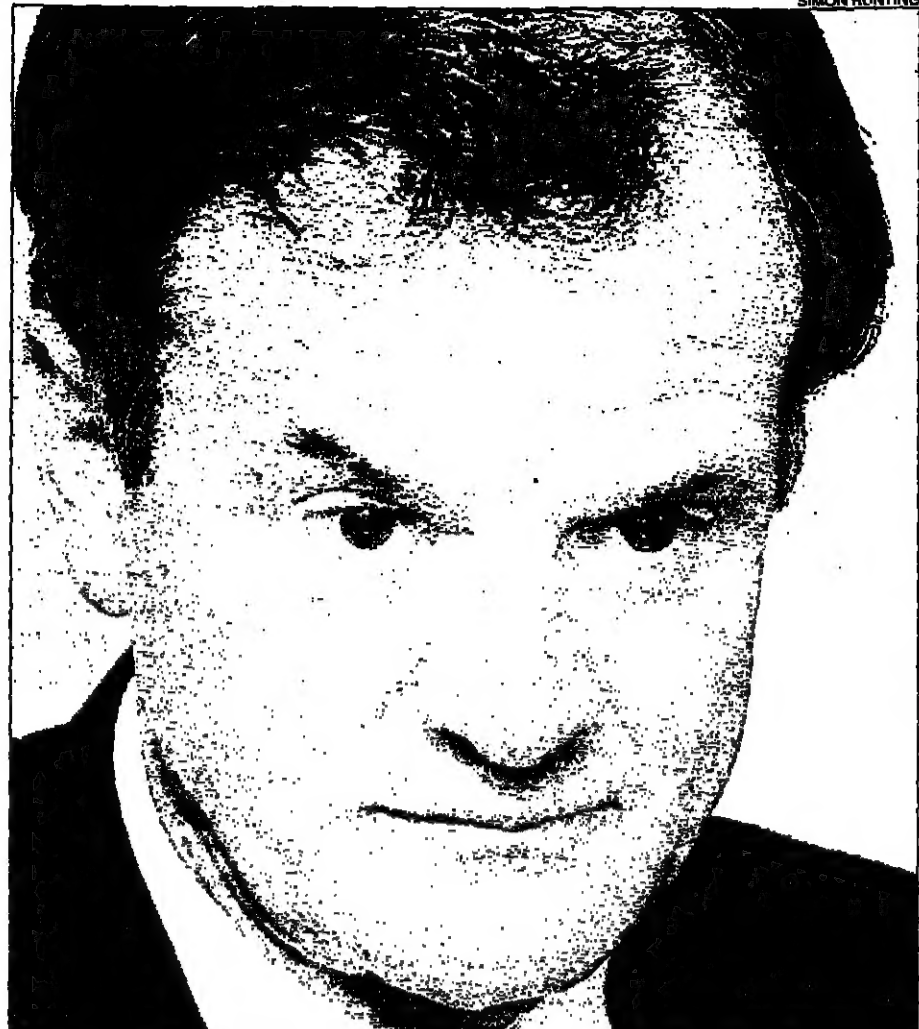
THE ten-year-old girl known as Child B, who was refused leukaemia treatment by her health authority, is to undergo an experimental transfusion technique after her doctor yesterday ruled out a second debilitating bone marrow transplant.

The girl is expected to go home this weekend before returning to the private London Clinic for a second course of chemotherapy followed by an injection of healthy blood cells from her nine-year-old sister.

The girl's first course of chemotherapy has destroyed half the leukaemia cells. However, Dr Peter Gravett, her haematologist, said yesterday that she still had only a 10 per cent chance of a full recovery. Her treatment began after an anonymous donor provided the £75,000 which Cambridgeshire Health Authority refused to pay because it gave the child little chance of survival.

Dr Gravett accepted that she was in effect a guinea-pig for donor lymphocyte infusion, the experimental treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia. "It is possible to justify that description but unless we are prepared to use promising technology on patients who have no other option we would never be able to develop new treatments," he said.

The treatment has been used in Britain and America over the past three years but because it is so new there are no comprehensive figures to determine its success rate. Child B's younger sister, who donated bone marrow



Gravett: accepted that his patient was in effect a guinea-pig

for the first unsuccessful transplant, would probably donate T-cells over Easter. These would be frozen and later injected into Child B.

Dr Gravett said the girl was surprisingly well and had been playing in nearby

Regent's Park, baking cakes and copying with work sent from school. She had lost her hair but was maintaining her weight.

"My assessment has not changed much since the initial phase," he said. "There is

still a 10 per cent chance of a successful outcome, but seeing how well she is at the moment we can give her a reasonable quality of life at least for several months."

Dr Gravett thought she might be able to return to

school in three months' time after 30 hours of intensive chemotherapy after Easter. The injection therapy could eventually be administered on an out-patient basis.

"A second bone marrow transplant would not be appropriate. Under the new technique we hope to augment the effect of chemotherapy and get rid of the last vestiges of leukaemia." He said the experimental treatment was intended to get the immune system to recognise leukaemia cells and attack them. "These injections are likely to be given for three to four months before we achieve the effect we are looking for."

Dr Gravett said he was aware of seven cases in Europe where the transfusion treatment had been used. Two had gone into complete remission and in the others there had been no response.

Professor John Goldman, of the Hammersmith hospital in west London, who pioneered the donor injection treatment, said that once the therapy started there was a 30 to 50 per cent chance of the girl recovering. "I feel giving up a month ago on this child would have been wrong," he said.

In a statement, Cambridgeshire Health Authority said: "We are delighted to hear that Child B is well at present. Our decision not to support such treatment was based on consistent clinical advice that it was ineffective and inappropriate. Our view remains the same after further consultation with our clinical advisers."



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TMB/PHC

Universe may be double known size

Scientists find hundreds of 'overlooked' galaxies

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE universe may contain twice as many galaxies as astronomers suspected, according to a new survey of the sky. The galaxies have been overlooked until now because they are faint.

Their discovery eases astronomers' anxiety about "missing mass", the fact that the universe seems to contain less material than is needed to explain its behaviour.

The results of the survey were reported yesterday to the National Astronomy Meeting in Cardiff by Professor Christopher Impey of the University of Arizona. Working with American and British colleagues he has scanned photographic plates taken with the UK Schmidt Telescope at Siding Spring in Australia, using an automatic plate-measuring machine at Cambridge.

The search concentrated on galaxies of low brightness and showed an unexpectedly large number in the local universe. "Previously overlooked galaxies



Known galaxies fail to account for all mass

may contribute as much material as the sum of all galaxies listed," Professor Impey told the meeting. "The universe is awash with dim galaxies."

In a strip of sky centred on the celestial equator, the team, which included Dr Michael Irwin of the Royal Greenwich Observatory in Cambridge, found 600 uncatalogued galaxies at a distance typically

300 to 400 million light years from our solar system.

"It is very easy to hide large numbers of galaxies under the veil of the overall brightness of the night sky," Professor Impey said. "Astronomers count the galaxies that are most easy to see. It's as simple as that."

The newly discovered galaxies can help to answer the problem of missing mass. Several lines of argument lead astronomers to believe that the universe must contain about ten times as much mass as we can see.

Some have suggested that black holes or brown dwarfs (low-wattage stars) might make up the difference, although recent surveys have cast doubt on this idea.

Professor Impey believes that much of the shortfall in mass may be made up of galaxies with a low surface brightness of the type that his survey has revealed. The team estimates that there are between 30 and 100 per cent more galaxies in a given volume of space than had previously been assumed.



The turtle is able to reduce brain activity under water

Turtle provides clue to stroke treatment

THE ability of turtles to stay underwater for hours without breathing could bring hope to stroke patients (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Scientists have discovered how turtles reduce brain activity so that their brain is not damaged by a lack of oxygen during dives. Now the same effect is being exploited in a range of drugs to be given to people immediately after they have had a stroke.

In a stroke, the blood supply to the brain is interrupted, causing a shortage of

oxygen, an overload of sodium and calcium in part of the brain, and cell death.

Dr Michael Spedding, a neuroscientist working in Paris, told a meeting of the Biochemical Society at Leicester University yesterday that the turtle blocks its sodium channels to survive immersion.

"This mechanism has also been found in the human brain, to a limited extent," he said. Drug companies are now racing to produce drugs that inhibit sodium and calcium.

Boom in drug abuse ignores borders of class and education

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MORE than six million people in England and Wales have taken illegal drugs with rapid increases in "pick and mix" drug use by young people since the mid-1980s, according to a study published yesterday.

The study discovered that, by the time it was carried out in 1991, four million people aged 16-29 had used cannabis, 900,000 had taken LSD, a million amphetamines and 450,000 Ecstasy. The report suggests that the numbers are only minimum estimates of the real extent of drug-taking.

The arrest of Tom Parker Bowles, 20, an old Etonian and an Oxford undergraduate, proves that drug-taking among people aged 16-29 is almost totally unrelated to a young person's educational or social background. Mr Parker Bowles and a godson of the Prince of Wales, has been cautioned by police after being arrested for carrying

cannabis and Ecstasy tablets. He was detained after leaving a disco in Greenwich, south-east London, on Sunday morning. A spokesman for Worcester College said yesterday that it would be taking no action. David King, the barrister, said it was not a college matter.

The report was based on the 1992 British Crime Survey and carried out by the Home Office research and planning unit. It says that the increase in the use of cannabis and other drugs among 16 to 29-year-olds since the mid-1980s may be because youngsters are adopting a "pick and mix" attitude to the recreational use of substances.

One million people aged 16-29 had used cannabis in 1991, 400,000 had taken amphetamines, 300,000 Ecstasy and 300,000 LSD. "Cannabis was by far the drug most commonly used—over one in ten of the total sample—and almost one in four of the 16 to 29-year-olds

said they had done so," the report said. It added that, compared with the British Crime Survey of 1982, more than twice as many people had used cannabis at some time. The greatest increase in use had been among 16 to 29-year-olds and it was relatively greater among women than men. Thirty-one per cent of 16 to 29-year-olds who had completed their education at 17 or older had taken drugs, compared with 25 per cent of those whose education ended at 16.

A third of white and Afro-Caribbean respondents said they had taken drugs compared with only 10 per cent of Asians, but there was little difference between the proportion of whites and Afro-Caribbeans who used cannabis, Ecstasy or cocaine. Whites were more likely to have taken amphetamines, LSD or magic mushrooms.

The study was based on an analysis of 6,406 people who answered questions on drugs.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

How Ecstasy can make dancing a real party killer

Dr Thomas Stuttard

THE nightclub Tom Parker Bowles was leaving when he was arrested and cautioned by police for possession of cannabis and Ecstasy is not far from the Guy's Hospital poisons unit, based at New Cross Hospital, southeast London. Dr John Henry, the consultant physician in charge of the unit and an acknowledged expert on Ecstasy, would also caution against its use, but on medical rather than legal grounds.

Ecstasy has the reputation of being safe. It is not. Ecstasy is an amphetamine, methylenedioxymethamphetamine, which is not only chemically related to such commonly abused drugs as dextroamphetamine, speed, but also to the hallucinatory drug mescaline. It generates a sense of well-being, with tiredness, shyness and insecurity lessened and hunger and loneliness forgotten, without causing complete loss of contact with reality.

It is usually said that the danger with Ecstasy is that those who take it can have an idiosyncratic response to it—medical jargon meaning that disaster might strike regardless of the size of the dose, the number of times it has been taken, or any other circumstances.

Dr Henry does not entirely accept this view. While he agrees that small doses can cause serious harm, generally he feels that "the more provocation is tempted, the more likely the user is to suffer".

Hyperthermia, or severe heat-stroke, is the commonest side-effect. It is impossible to predict who is most at risk, but any user who dances energetically in a hot crowd could collapse or die. Dr Henry says: "It's no different from deaths during military training. A platoon marches 12 miles in full kit on a hot, sticky day, usually without

misadventure. Then on one occasion a soldier collapses dead, the other 29 survive unscathed. Nobody knows why that particular recruit reacted badly on that particular occasion."

The high body temperature may cause strokes, blood-clotting abnormalities or kidney failure. Dr Henry says those who take Ecstasy regularly may become depressed, paranoid or suffer panic attacks.

Parents should be suspicious of the all-night raver, particularly if he has recently been losing weight. They should be doubly suspicious if a raver who has had a heavy night remains awake the next day but in a zombie-like state, and constantly needs to quench his thirst with soft drinks or lager.

Acute intoxication with Ecstasy results in agitation, dilated pupils, sweating and a clenched jaw. The raver's own cure is to drink large quantities of water to combat the thirst induced by the drug.

Getting the dose of water just right is more difficult than they suppose. Some have drunk so much that they have given themselves brain damage by overloading their tissues with water.



Tom Parker Bowles

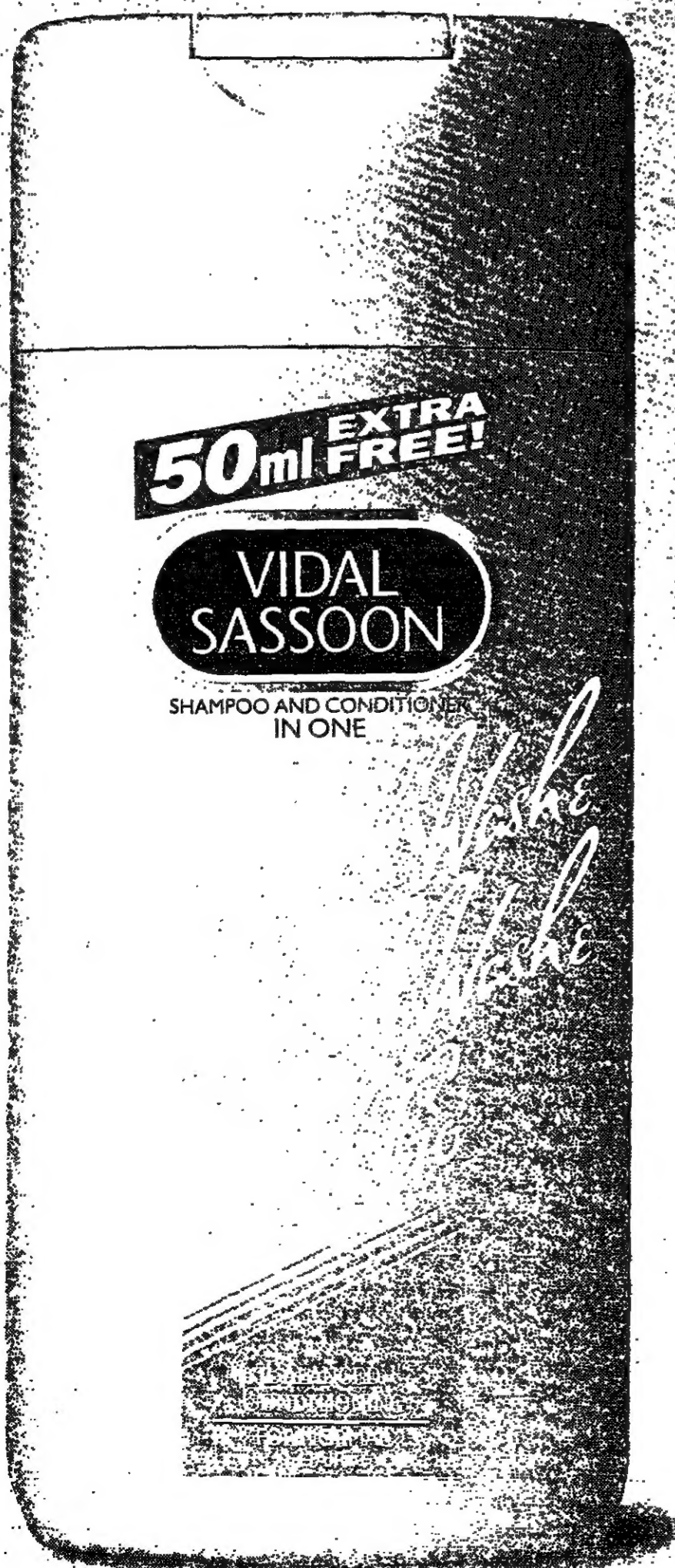
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06:30



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11:15



Jake O'Sullivan teases his mother as she asks about her mortgage.

13:28



Andrea Austin fixes a loan for a new car while waiting for a tow.

20:18



Klinsmann scores. Andy Smith celebrates and raises his overdraft.

23:30



Bob Sparks wakes with a start and calls to pay his gas bill.

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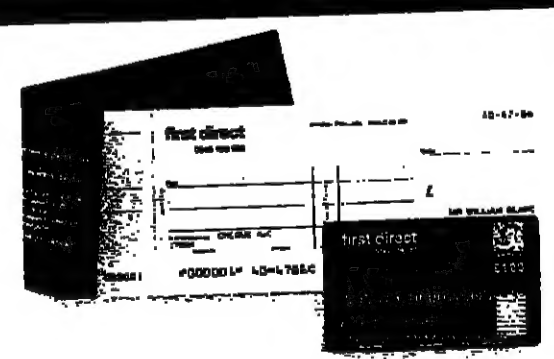
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Youngest peer steps into the limelight

BY ALICE THOMSON

THE youngest peer in the House of Lords will make his debut in the chamber today.

The 24-year-old Earl of Hardwicke will deliver his maiden speech on the film industry, becoming one of the youngest members of either House to speak since Pitt the Younger. Lord Hardwicke — Joe, to his family — has had 21 years to prepare what he will say. At three, on the death of his grandfather, he became the youngest senior peer this century and was told about it over a bowl of spaghetti as he watched *Babar* goes to America.

His mother took him to live in the West Indies when he was five. He owns a half-share in a restaurant there and spends his time organising raves, travelling and working in public relations. "We don't have a country pile or anything. The fifth Earl squandered everything. I just bought a flat in Chelsea," he said yesterday.

But he believes passionately in the peerage and thinks it is



Lord Hardwicke, who will urge tax breaks for the film industry in his maiden speech in the Lords today.

vital that younger peers challenge the preconception that the House of Lords is the last resting place of old landowners and retired politicians.

He entered the House soon after his 21st birthday and has decided the time has come to speak up. "In the art funding debate the older Lords tend to speak about opera, classical

music and ballet. As a younger person I think film is a good place for me to specialise. My mother was an actress before she died."

His passions include the films of Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino and he is convinced that the British film industry could rival Hollywood if only the Government

would give tax incentives. Being a peer, he says, can be irritating. "I had real problems getting car insurance and when it was Maastricht I kept getting these whips' letters telling me to vote. But it is a wonderful place to take friends to lunch — although it should have a snooker table — and you always end up sitting

next to someone interesting, like Lord Lawson."

□ The Commons National Heritage Committee called yesterday for tax incentives to encourage international producers and directors to make films in Britain. It also suggested changes to allow increased investment in film-making by Channel 4.

□ A report from the National Audit Office reveals that: □ Final payments on the sale are unlikely to be made before 2012.

County Hall delay may cost taxpayer millions of pounds

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE redevelopment of the disbanding Greater London Council's former headquarters could take another 20 years, the Japanese owners said yesterday as the Government was heavily criticised over the sale of the site. The delay could cost the taxpayer millions of pounds.

Shirayama, Shokusan Ltd also said that it still had not reached a decision on the future use of County Hall, which faces the Palace of Westminster across the Thames and is one of London's prime pieces of real estate.

A report from the National Audit Office reveals that: □ Final payments on the sale are unlikely to be made before 2012.

□ Michael Howard, as Environment Secretary, failed to use his powers under the 1985 Local Government Act to intervene when Shirayama Shokusan used its position as

the only remaining bidder to negotiate a lower price.

□ The financial standing of Shirayama was never verified before the sale; company accounts were not examined and little supporting material was obtained from financial institutions.

□ The London Residuary Body, set up by the Government to dispose of County Hall, failed to follow Treasury rules by not updating the valuation of the site during negotiations.

□ Contrary to Treasury guidance, the residuary body sold the building by private treaty rather than by auction or competitive tender.

Labour MPs last night described the sale as a scandal and demanded that Mr Howard explain why he had refused to prevent the price being dropped.

The building, the seat of London government since the First World War, was sold to Shirayama in 1993. It had become redundant in 1986 after the abolition of the Greater London Council.

After a series of planning inquiries and a number of grandiose schemes backed by various Labour politicians and visionaries to turn the building into a "people's palace", by 1992 County Hall's future lay between two bidders: the little-known Japanese company and the London School of Economics.

After the LSE bid was rejected, a price of £60 million was agreed with Shirayama in March 1992. But a year later, six months before the contract was due for completion, Shirayama sought to reduce the price to £42 million. In a

compromise, the LRB agreed to a reduction to £50 million, plus a deferred payment of £10 million payable over a period up to 2012.

No interest is payable on the deferred sum, which was to be paid back in annual instalments from 1997 out of profits from the development. The owners now admit there will be no such profits over the envisaged period and there is little chance of the deferred payments being recovered until well into the next century.

Planning permission has been granted for various projects including a hotel, Europe's largest aquarium and various leisure and education facilities, all of which are now back in the melting pot. In a statement to the NAO, Shirayama says that it "needs to weigh the various possible uses of the building and decide which options are best suited to the building for all generations of the public and also to see whether these are commercially viable". The company plans to make a decision by October 1995.

Alan Milburn, the Labour MP who first referred the sale to the NAO, said last night: "The report confirms that one of London's key sites has been treated in a totally cavalier fashion. Michael Howard's refusal to intervene to prevent a reduction in the sale price means that Shirayama has London taxpayers over a barrel".

He added: "It is outrageous that the disposal of a prime national site like County Hall should have been subject to a secret agreement between an unaccountable quango and an overseas property company."



County Hall: prime London site deserted since 1986

Monument to one failed ambition after another

BY JOE JOSEPH

NO DOUBT in a room deep within County Hall, Ken Livingstone's in-tray from his glory days as head of the Greater London Council still brims with unfulfilled dreams to erect a peace pagoda by the Cenotaph, to rename the Blackwall Tunnel, or to pave London with coal matting.

But you need only read the index-finger dabb in a dusty window saying "Arsenal Football Club is the best" to see just how long the place has been asleep.

County Hall was deserted after Margaret Thatcher disbanded the GLC and is still disused by its new Japanese owners — what exactly goes on there now? "Nothing," grunts a green-jacketed security guard, one of the few signs of life left in the enormous Thames-side mansion. "It's a building site."

Sand and cement are being shovelled around for maintenance work that will prevent the building crumbling before its fate as an hotel, or a university campus, a multi-multiplex cinema, a gigantic aquarium, or whatever, is decided.

On a windless day yesterday even the Union flag, the blue European Union flag and the red-on-white Japanese flag of the new owners hung lifelessly from the white flagpole, as if they had lost the spirit to flap.

The facade's mosaic of windows has been glazed with a grimy film of neglect, like cataracts blotting out one of the best views in London, certainly the best view across the Thames to the Palace of Westminster and the Abbey beyond.

In one of the downstairs function rooms there is a big flip chart showing a text-

drawing of County Hall, with the Thames flecked with passing barges and tourist trampers — the work either of a bored builder doing his art homework or one of the many plans sketched out by the Japanese millionaire Takashi Shirayama.

It was in a nearby lounge that a karaoke bar was set up for Mr Shirayama's consultants, brought in to devise ways of turning County Hall into an hotel. The discovery last year that not only was County Hall now home to a karaoke bar but that a oak throne, carved in the 19th century and used by successive chairmen of the London County Council, had become a bar stool sent the ancient regime into a frenzy.

"It's outrageous," screamed Tony Banks, the former GLC chairman-turned-Labour MP. "They didn't buy the furniture as well. That's a piece of local government history which shouldn't be there. And it certainly shouldn't be used for karaoke parties by a bunch of Japanese hoteliers."

The London Evening Standard hires the inner courtyard to park a horse-drawn Victorian carriage emblazoned with advertising hoardings, but that is about the only sign of commercial activity left.

So what became of those plans to turn County Hall into a luxury hotel — to be run by Richard Branson, wasn't it, alongside a leisure and cultural centre?

"There was talk of that at one point," says the security guard.

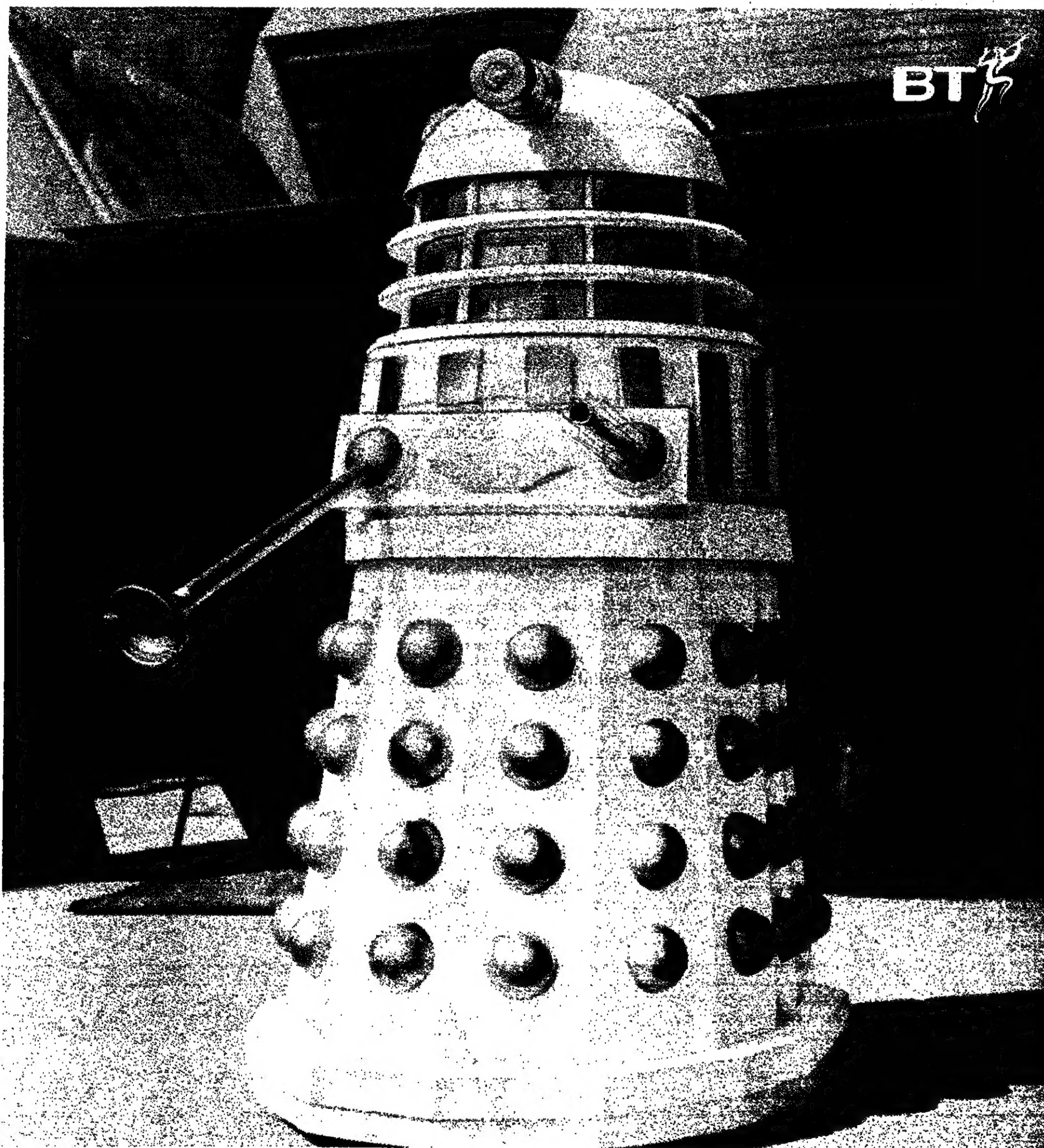
Has the plan been abandoned? "Nobody tells us anything. We just open the gates to let the horses out."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons questions to employment ministers and the Prime Minister, with Tony Newton, leader of the House, standing in for John Major, debated on the Finance Bill, remaining Labour debate on Mental Health Patients in the Community Bill.

TODAY in the Commons: From 10am, the Easter adjournment debate followed by

backbench debates on compensation arising from compulsory purchase orders and privatisation costs. From 2.30pm, questions to the Secretary of State. Debate on Licensing (Sunday Hours) Bill. Followed by a debate on the new Criminal Justice Bill. The Commons then has its Easter recess on Wednesday and the Lords on Thursday. Both Houses return on April 18.



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 5 1995

Climate summit disintegrates as nations squabble

FROM NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, IN BERLIN

AN INTERNATIONAL environment summit on global warming was slipping into chaos last night with the chances of any meaningful agreements looking slim.

The United Nations climate conference in Berlin is trying to broker fresh and deep cuts in "greenhouse" gas emissions among more than 100 nations after scientific evidence that rising carbon emissions threaten to disrupt weather patterns and raise sea levels.

But as ministers including John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, flew in, officials admitted that even the simplest first steps were proving difficult. Countries have failed to agree whether voting by majority or by block vote.

Maurice Strong, the former head of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, said yesterday: "The mood is sombre."

Meanwhile, several nations have joined forces to block firm action in alliances that would have been unthinkable a few years ago. The United States, the world's biggest emitter of carbon, has said that it does not want any fresh targets or timetables, putting it on the same side as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which includes Iran.

Australia, one of the world's biggest coal exporters, has also aligned itself with America.

Environmentalists say that the Republican-dominated US Congress has guided the American stance amid concern that tougher controls smack of government intervention, threatening to undermine the nation's economic competitiveness.

Countries representing the developing world, including several island states, have agreed that global warming is a reality, but have rejected American moves calling for them to share a greater burden in cutting emissions.

A senior British official said yesterday: "This position does not just stick to the US delegation's throat but in others' too." However, Dr Jeremy Leggett, of Greenpeace, says: "It has always been understood that the developed world, which has a fifth of the population but produces 80 per cent of the greenhouse gases, should act first. At some stage the developing countries will have to join in, but not now."

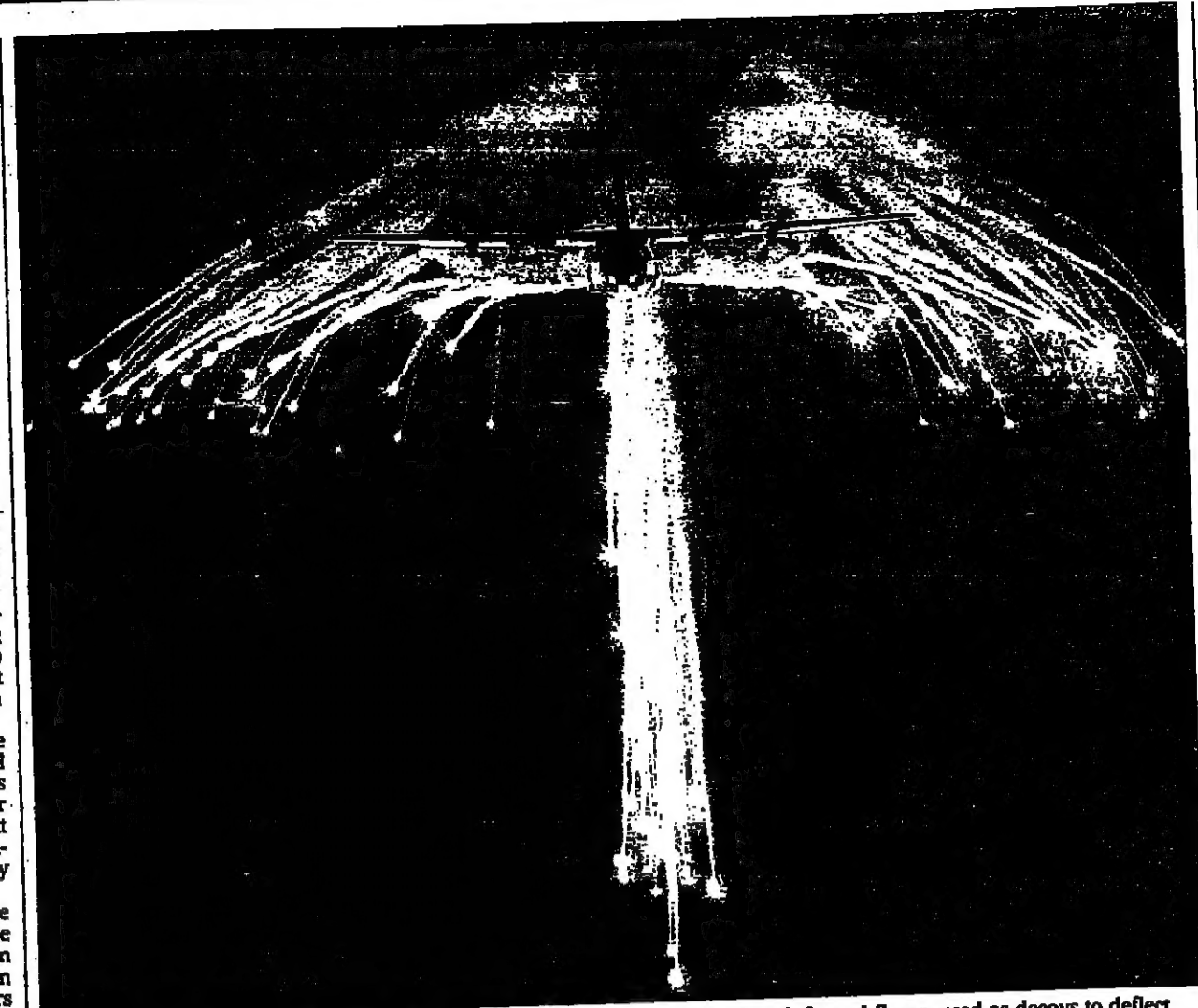
The summit has not been helped by a draft economic report that has tried to cost the impact of global warming. It has valued the life of a Bangladeshi farmer, killed by a cyclone, at \$150,000 (£94,000). But an American or European killed by the ravages of climate change has been valued at ten times more.

Dr Leggett says: "Delegates from developing countries are using quite colourful language in response to this. It has not helped the discussions."

The meeting has also been marked by a string of environmental protests, including one in which three activists staged a sit-in at a coal-fired power station near Cologne. The protest is aimed at highlighting huge German subsidies to coal, which green groups want cut to reduce carbon emissions.

Most officials agree that the arrival today of ministers will be crucial if any agreement is to be found by Friday. Mr Gummer has proposed that nations agree to cut greenhouse gases by 5-10 per cent by 2010 from 1990 levels.

It has the support of the European Union and some countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. "Ministers will certainly have to hash heads if this is all going to be resolved," Dr Leggett said.



Lighting-up time: a C130 Hercules of the Royal Australian Air Force fires infra-red flares, used as decoys to deflect heat-seeking missiles, at dusk over the South Australia coast. The test was part of an electronic warfare exercise

MP quits over fake Maori phone-in

FROM MIKE MUNRO IN WELLINGTON

A SENIOR New Zealand government MP, who had telephoned a radio station and masqueraded as a Maori "dole bludger", was forced to quit yesterday as a parliamentary whip. The move comes amid a growing race relations crisis over official land reparations to Maori.

John Carter, formerly the Chief Whip of the ruling National Party, emerged from a terse meeting with Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, to acknowledge that what was intended as a joke had caused offence. His resignation, he added, "was the most honourable action that I could take".

Mr Carter made his bogus call to a talk-back programme hosted by a fellow government MP, John Banks, the Tourism Minister. During the call, Mr Carter spoke with a fake Maori accent and expressed support for a proposed rugby trip to South Africa by MPs, stating: "What's wrong with a free trip, man? I have been having a free trip all my life."

Bellamy Russia plea

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

DAVID BELLAMY, the television biologist and leading environmentalist, warned the Commons Environment Committee yesterday of the worsening pollution crisis in Russia and urged MPs to help to co-ordinate Western efforts to alleviate the problem.

He said atmospheric and river pollution were so bad that 80 per cent of Russian drinking water fell below recognised purity standards. Soil pollution was such that much of the food Russians ate was sub-standard. Professor Bellamy, who chairs the UK steering committee of the London Initiative on the Russian Environment, said the West could do much to help Russia with financial aid, advice on legislation and the dissemination of environmentally friendly technology.



Banjo Paterson, who serenaded fellow drinkers

'Matilda' waltzes into controversy

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

FORGET *God Save The Queen* and *Advance Australia Fair*. The song that most Australians regard as their national anthem, *Waltzing Matilda*, celebrates its centenary tomorrow.

It was 100 years ago that Andrew Barton Paterson — Banjo to his friends — sat in the bar of the North Gregory Hotel in tiny Winton, Queensland, and serenaded fellow drinkers with the tale of the swagman camped by a billabong under the shade of a coolabah tree.

A century later thousands of *Matilda* fans, including Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, will gather in Winton to mark the anniversary with a Banjo Paterson festival that is due to last for at least 12 days.

The Australian leader knows how to milk such an occasion. It may be a song about a sheep thief who commits suicide, but Mr Keating is also aware that the rhythm and lyrics strike an emotional chord with millions of his countrymen. He admits that *Waltzing Matilda* "always brings the hair up on the back of my neck, and is part and parcel of whatever we are as Australians".

However, the song that is synonymous with wide, brown, outback landscapes and colourful characters from Australia's past, almost certainly, comes from Britain. According to evidence revealed in a television documentary to be broadcast in Australia to mark the *Matilda* centenary, the tune is based on two songs, *Craigielea* from Scotland, and *The Bold Fusilier*, a 17th century English marching song designed to rouse up troops for the Duke of Marlborough.

Such views get short shrift in Winton, where any suggestion that *Waltzing Matilda* comes from the Poms is tantamount to treason. "I dare say if the Brits try to claim it as their own there will be some kind of squeal over it," cautioned Ray Fallon, landlord of the North Gregory Hotel. "They've got plenty of good songs already, but *Waltzing Matilda* isn't one of them. It's Australian and it always will be."

Shelle Ballie, a Winton museum employee, is not so sure. "There are so many different theories about its origin that you pay your money and take your choice," she admits.

A letter sold at Sotheby's in Melbourne two years ago indicated that the swagman's ditty almost certainly came from Scotland. In it, Banjo Paterson confirmed that the tune was based on *Craigielea*.

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Q Without Scottish Nuclear, how many more tonnes of the greenhouse gas, CO₂, would have been released into the environment last year alone?

- A** A 7 million? ☐
B 11 million? ☐
C 14 million? ☐

Q If the electricity generated by our two power stations had been produced by burning coal, 14 million extra tonnes of CO₂ would have helped fuel the "greenhouse effect".

Q Which of the following does not cause acid rain?

- A** A Coal fired power stations? ☐
B Oil fired power stations? ☐
C Nuclear power stations? ☐

Q Unlike coal or oil fired power stations, generating electricity from nuclear power produces no sulphur or nitrogen oxides which are known to cause acid rain.

Q How much does nuclear power contribute through discharges, on average, to annual public radiation doses?

- A** A 85%? ☐
B 69%? ☐
C Less than 0.1%? ☐

Q You may be surprised to learn that nuclear power discharges are one of the smallest sources of radiation exposure, accounting for less than 0.1% — that's only a fraction of what you would receive on a return flight to Spain. It's certainly not 85% as this is the amount of your radiation dose which comes from natural sources in Scotland. The remaining, approximately 15% comes principally from medical sources.

A The Scots? ☐

B The English? ☐

C The rest of the world? ☐

Understandably, more and more people are concerned about the environment and world ecology. Scottish Nuclear being among them.

Nuclear power generation offers many environmental benefits.

It does not contribute to the "greenhouse effect" and, because it doesn't produce sulphur or nitrogen oxides, it doesn't contribute to acid rain.

Nuclear power produces only a tiny fraction of the radiation that surrounds us — most of it occurs naturally.

What's more Scottish Nuclear's concern for the environment extends through every aspect of its work, from the generation of electricity through to waste management and the eventual decommissioning of its power stations.

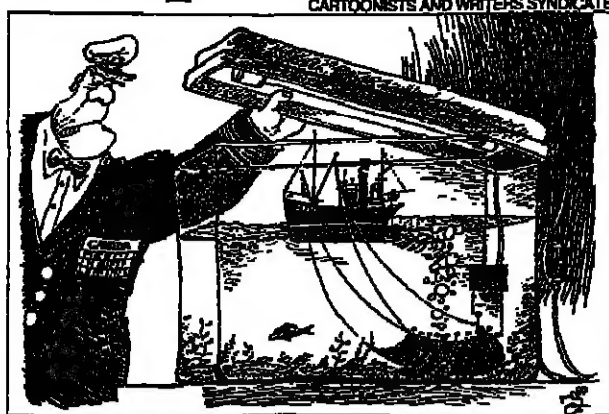
If the world's population continues to grow at its present rate and energy consumption follows current trends, nuclear power must be a part of any future energy mix if we are to protect the environment.

The truth is, we need nuclear power now. We'll need it even more in the future.



If you have any questions or would like further information, please write to me, Irene Currie, Corporate Communications Department (TTA), Scottish Nuclear Limited, FREEPOST, East Kilbride G74 5PR. A selection of your questions along with our answers will be published in forthcoming articles in this paper.

Spanish ministers reject EU peace plan in Atlantic fish war



A view of the Greenland halibut dispute by Jean, of the Viennese newspaper *Der Standard*

FROM GEORGE BROCK
IN BRUSSELS AND
RICHARD CLEROUX
IN OTTAWA

THE fishing war between Spain and Canada flared again last night when it became clear that Madrid's objections to a proposed peace deal were so profound that it could scupper the chances of a solution.

The question of Atlantic catches will become an increasing problem within the European Union, with Spain expressing unhappiness at Britain's role. The issue seems certain to be high on the agenda of EU foreign ministers when they meet early next week. Spanish ministers

and officials yesterday spelt out Madrid's disagreements with a draft deal completed late on Monday night. The proposal, they said, allocated Spain 8,000 tonnes of fish in the disputed zone off the Grand Banks; Madrid had asked for 13,500 tonnes, or a 50-50 split with Canada. Spain also objected to Canada being allowed exclusive rights to 7,000 tonnes of fish in a "box" of sea outside Canadian territorial waters.

In a radio interview, Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, declared the deal unacceptable and took a swipe at Britain for supporting Canada against its EU partner. Britain's stance, he said, was a "serious mistake. At some point

Britain will need to call on the solidarity of others and we would remind them that solidarity is required all the time and not just when it is convenient," he said.

In Canada, however, it is widely accepted that the Greenland halibut war was planned as early as last autumn by the Canadians with at least the complicity of one or more of Spain's European Union partners, who wanted its fishermen to be taught a lesson.

Canadian negotiators have been planning for some time to trade away Greenland halibut quotas in return for Spain and Portugal respecting conservation of stocks off the Grand Banks. In the past few years, fisher-

men from Europe and Canada have been catching about 60,000 tonnes of Greenland halibut a year. Of that, about 45,000 tonnes have been caught by Spain and Portugal.

Last autumn, the North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (Naflo) set a total catch for everyone of 27,000 tonnes, less than half of the previous year's total, in an effort to allow depleted stocks to regenerate. Canada, which had only a marginal interest in Greenland halibut until recently, was given 16,300 tonnes, 69 per cent of the total — and the European Union (only Spain and Portugal catch Greenland halibut) was given 3,400 tonnes, less than a tenth of what it had caught the

previous year. The Spanish and Portuguese were furious and served notice that they would ignore the quota and catch 16,300 tonnes.

Canadian fisheries officials believe that the Spanish and Portuguese passed their quota within the first two weeks of January, and that by the end of that month had caught more than 7,000 tonnes and were well on their way to matching last year's catch.

The generosity of Naflo to Canada was widely interpreted as a punishment for Spain and Portugal and as a move to drag them to the negotiating table to discuss enforcement rules.

Simon Jenkins, page 14

Bosnian Muslims drive Serbs from vital stronghold

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BOSNIAN government forces have driven the Serbs off a strategic mountain stronghold that dominates the central region of the country as the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina enters its fourth year.

The Muslims' capture of most of Mount Vlasica, which overlooks the town of Travnik, is one of their most important military gains. Bosnian Croat troops said that their guns were also involved.

The Serbs have held the mountain position for most of the war, from where they have launched artillery attacks on Travnik, the Muslim stronghold of Zenica and other towns



in central Bosnia. The guns have also posed a potential threat to the British United Nations camp at Vitez. Bosnian government forces have been trying for months to

dislodge the Serbs from the mountain. Now, after seizing the communications tower and most of the position, the Muslims will have an added incentive to continue fighting rather than seek a peaceful end to the war.

Yesterday, an official of the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) southwest sector, based at Gornji Vakuf, said it was difficult to get precise reports because of limitations on the movement of Unprofor troops in the area around Travnik.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that Bosnian government forces have taken the Vlasica feature and the communications tower, he said. The seizure of Mount Vlasica would provide Bosnian government troops with a springboard for other operations.

News of the Muslim capture of Vlasica came as the five nations of the Contact Group met in London to find a formula to keep peace hopes alive. The so-called ceasefire, broken with increasing frequency, ends in just over three weeks.

Diplomatic sources said the Contact Group of Britain, America, France, Russia and Germany discussed offering Serbia gradual relief from UN sanctions in return for Belgrade's recognition of Bosnia and Croatia. Officials of the Bosnian government, whose forces are on the offensive around Tuzla as well as around Travnik, have vowed not to extend the ceasefire. However, American officials hope Bosnian government leaders might be persuaded to reconsider a truce extension if there were some sign of a diplomatic breakthrough.

Vlasica dominates the highlands to the north and important river valleys to the south and west. Control of the peak secures access routes to Donji Vakuf and Jajce, both Serb-held towns.



Russian workers walk past a plastic sculpture of Abraham Lincoln yesterday in Gorky Park, Moscow, part of a miniature replica of Mount Rushmore. Like the original in the Black Hills of South Dakota, the copy will also include busts of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt. The images will be upright by the time President Clinton attends the Moscow VE-Day celebrations on May 9

Ukraine parliament shuns reforms

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

THE Ukrainian parliament dealt a blow to President Kuchma and economic reform in the former Soviet Union yesterday by passing a vote of no confidence in the Cabinet, which it accused of lacking concern for the welfare of the population. But Mr Kuchma vowed to continue his reform programme, which has won high praise from the West.

The parliament in Kiev, which is dominated by conservative former Communist officials and managers, voted by 292 to 15 to dismiss the Government, currently headed by Yevgenii Marchuk, the caretaker Prime Minister.

In a snub to Mr Kuchma, the vote came only minutes before the President was due to make a "state of the nation" address to parliament. In the no-confidence debate, Oleg

Dyomin, the deputy parliamentary chairman, said the Government had "no conception for restructuring the economy", and that "no social measures were adopted to accompany the freeing of



Kuchma: expected to keep Cabinet

prices". Mr Marchuk, a former deputy head of the KGB, replaced Vitalii Masol, the conservative Prime Minister, only a month ago. Although not a natural reformer, his Cabinet contains leading radical reformist ministers whose presence is considered by Western diplomats to be essential to the economic reforms.

Mr Kuchma is expected to keep most of the present Cabinet, possibly making a token bow to parliament by replacing Mr Marchuk or carrying out a limited reshuffle. If the parliament remains recalcitrant, the Ukrainian constitution allows the President to keep ministers in office almost indefinitely on a "provisional" basis. The next significant threat to Mr Kuchma from parliament is strong

resistance among deputies to passing the budget. This imposes severe restrictions on spending as part of the struggle against hyper-inflation, which at times in the past three years has seemed close to tearing Ukraine apart.

In his speech yesterday, Mr Kuchma said the passage of the budget was essential if the International Monetary Fund was to release a planned stand-by credit of \$1.8 billion (\$1.1 billion) to Ukraine, crucial for economic stabilisation. "This year should be a turning point in not only getting Western political support but financial help for our reforms," he said. "We will never join the ranks of leading nations if Ukraine's economic rebirth does not become the overall unifying national ideal."

Romania crash jet 'had fault'

Brussels: The co-pilot of a Romanian aircraft that crashed last Friday killing all 60 on board complained of a technical problem just before losing contact, a Belgian newspaper reported yesterday.

Le Soir said it had obtained the text of the last conversation between the co-pilot and the control tower in Bucharest. "This one is wrong," the co-pilot was reported to have said in an apparent reference to a fault showing up on his control panel. The report lessened the credibility of a theory that a bomb caused the plane to crash minutes after take-off from Bucharest. (Reuters)

Hungary tackles criminal gangs

Budapest: Hungary is to launch an intelligence task-force to stop international criminals getting a foothold in the country's political establishment. (Adam LeBor writes). The announcement was made by Istvan Miklosi, Minister for the Secret Services. The group's brief will include investigating large transfers of money. Gangs in Budapest are engaged in a growing struggle for control of lucrative rackets.

Kohl will attend Moscow VE-Day

Bonn: Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, will attend Moscow's commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War after Russia agreed not to hold a militaristic victory march, officials said. President Yeltsin will hold the military parade away from Red Square, so Herr Kohl can attend without embarrassment. (Reuters)

Archbishop backs use of condoms

Marseilles: Mgr Robert Coffy, the Catholic Archbishop of Marseilles, said yesterday that condoms should be allowed "in very specific cases", notably in preventing the spread of Aids.

The ailing prelate, 75, said condom use was justified if it prevented an infected person from "killing their neighbour". The Catholic community "cannot ask them [people with Aids] to kill their neighbour by giving them Aids".

His comments came after the publication of Pope John Paul II's encyclical last week reaffirming the Catholic Church's teaching on contraception, which bans all forms except the rhythm method.

Mgr Coffy, seriously ill and due to celebrate his farewell Mass on Sunday, added: "Sexuality is a great treasure which does not exist on its own but belongs to a loving relationship." (AFP)

Kinkel says Turks must leave Iraq

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

TURKEY'S Foreign Minister, Erdal Inonu, was subjected yesterday to a barrage of criticism from German politicians, human rights activists and even police commanders infuriated by suggestions that their men were not protecting Turkish homes.

About 120 Turkish restaurants, boarding houses and clubs have been burnt down in Germany in the past two weeks as Ankara's war against the Kurds spreads to its most important European ally.

By the end of his two-day visit, the minister's campaign to woo back Turkey's unhappy Western allies seemed to be on the brink of collapse. Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, criticised Turkey's incursion of northern Iraq and made it clear that Europe had a very powerful lever: it could block ratification in the European

Parliament of Turkish participation in the European customs union. Herr Kinkel said Turkey should leave northern Iraq "as quickly as possible".

For his part, Mr Inonu said: "Our aim is to destroy Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) arms depots and ensure that the PKK cannot attack our country from there. When we have achieved this aim, our soldiers will return."

Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Prime Minister, also insisted yesterday that her troops had every right to be there. In a veiled reference to Germany, which froze military aid in protest, she said: "You can keep your weapons."

Mr Inonu upset police by accusing the security forces of doing "far too little" to protect Turks living in fear in Germany. Gerhard Bokel, the Interior Minister of Hesse, called the claim "grotesque".

Hitch-hiker Ballardur's guide to the polls

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

WAS the lady in the Mercedes a set-up? The question was at the centre of French presidential polemics yesterday after an embarrassing disclosure about the identity of the woman who gave Edouard Ballardur, the Gaullist Prime Minister, a taste of the hitch-hiker's life.

Much fuss was made last week over the ease with which the patrician Prime Minister had all alone flagged down a passing car — albeit a Mercedes — after fog had forced his helicopter to deposit him in open countryside near Arles. The presidential candidate proclaimed his adventure to have been great fun and his team milked the trip with a woman driver as proof that he was really a

humble man of the people. News yesterday that Claire Lacaille, the motorist, is related to one of M Ballardur's senior lieutenants triggered a gleeful barrage from the camps of Jacques Chirac, his Socialist rival, and Lionel Jospin, the Socialist. Francois Baroin, spokesman for M Chirac, diagnosed either a miracle or a set-up. "The French public should know the truth if this was a publicity stunt to show that M Ballardur is close to the people," he said. On the other side, Pierre Moscovici, M Jospin's campaign treasurer, said: "In the United States a candidate would have to withdraw" if he was caught doing such a stunt.

Hounded in deepest Provence by the media, Mme Lacaille said that fate had put the stately hitch-hiker in her path. "Do they think M Ballardur can order the

fog?" she asked. Georges Tron, the MP and Ballardur aide, was merely her husband's first cousin and, clinching her point, she added that she was not voting for M Ballardur.

The squabble offered some relief in the increasingly venomous duel between the brother Gaullists as they battle for supremacy in the two-round election, due on April 23 and May 7. Over the past two days each has accused the other of trying to monopolise power by installing cronies in key posts.

Meanwhile, further down the field, a handful of minor contenders saw their campaigns ended by their failure to meet last night's deadline for lodging the required forms with the signatures of 500 elected officials from at least 30 départements.

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	£ 1,000 - £ 4,999	4.60
Nova Ninety Offshore	£150,000 - £500,000	7.55
	£ 50,000 - £149,999	7.25
	£ 25,000 - £ 49,999	6.85
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Hutu extremists pressure refugees to invade Rwanda

FROM SAM KILEY IN KIGALI

HUTU extremists yesterday demanded a war tax from Hutu refugees sheltering in Tanzania, claiming that the refugees' only hope of survival was to join Hutu militiamen and Rwanda's former army to invade the country.

Aid workers fear a series of attacks by Hutu extremists, responsible for last year's genocide, to coincide with the anniversary of the slaughter tomorrow.

James Fennell, head of emergency operations for Care International, said that reports from Benaco camp, near Tanzania's border with Rwanda, where 750,000 Hutu refugees are living, were "terrifying".

"There is no doubt that the extremists are putting huge pressure on their people to join a movement, using fear engendered by the anniversary to whip up ethnic animosity. I am convinced that we will see an upsurge in instability in the coming weeks," he said.

The warning comes a day after reports of a Tutsi massacre of 400 Hutu men, women and children in north-east Burundi. Tutsi officers have dismissed the claim, insisting

that only 20 Hutu guerrillas who had been preying on the local Hutu population had been killed. The United Nations said, however, that it had unconfirmed reports of mass killings in two other northern Burundi villages.

Robert Krueger, the American Ambassador who revealed similar massacres in the past and who has been put on a hit list for his outspokenness, said that most of the victims he saw were women and children who had been

bludgeoned with rocks, stabbed with bayonets, or slashed with knives and machetes. "When you look at a child who has been clubbed so badly that his brains are projecting out, when you look at infants who have been beaten and hit with machetes, you know that these are not people caught in some sort of crossfire. It's horrendous and beyond belief," he said.

Burundi has a Hutu President and a Tutsi Prime Minister, who share power in an increasingly fragile coalition. Fearing the country is on the brink of another bloodbath, President Ntiburunganya gave a warning of "double genocide".

Hutu refugees in Tanzania were addressed yesterday by Jean-Baptiste Gatafe, a leading member of the "death squadron" that planned last year's genocide. He has also been identified by Western security sources as the main organiser of shipments of light weapons and long-range 120mm mortars, as well as millions of rounds of ammunition, to Hutu soldiers in training camps in the Central African Republic and Zaire.

Tanzania yesterday rejected a UN appeal to reopen the border with Burundi, which it closed to prevent 55,000 refugees from crossing after rumours that they were to be targeted by their Tutsi rivals.

"It is a decision we intend to stick to," Colonel Abdurrahman Kinana, the Defence Minister, said. He also accused the international community of not doing enough to force Rwanda to take back its refugees.

Many diplomats and aid workers, as well as moderate Hutu refugees, now believe that the rumours were spread deliberately by Hutu extremists in Tanzania and Zaire who are anxious to concentrate Hutus under the control of the *interahamwe* (those who kill together) militia and the defeated Hutu army driven from power last year.

Tanzania and Zaire have been used as bases for Hutu extremists to train while they have been fed by the international community. Rwanda's new coalition Government, which remains dominated by the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front, has been unable to raise funds to put these responsible for the genocide on trial. Ahmed Salim Salim, the Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity, yesterday called on the international community to help Rwanda to start war crimes trials.

Leading article, page 15



Ntiburunganya: fears 'double genocide'

Ethnic killings rife in Burundi

BY MICHAEL DYNES

SINCE independence from Belgium in 1962, Burundi has become notorious for its massacres, the worst of which took place in 1972, when an estimated 100,000 men, women and children were killed.

Burundi has a history of conflict between the Tutsi, who are mainly herders and make up 14 per cent of the population, and the farming Hutu who account for the rest.

For the first three decades, the country was run by Tutsi-dominated regimes, which proved ruthless in crushing opposition.

In June 1993, during Burundi's first multiparty elections, the Hutu, led by Melchior Ndadaye, won a landslide victory. The result marked the end of the Tutsi's domination, although they were represented in the new administration and remained in control of the army.

In October that year, President Ndadaye was overthrown and executed by Tutsi paratroopers, the victims of Burundi's fourth coup since independence. Violent and

widespread slaughter followed, as Tutsi and Hutu exacted revenge.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimated that 740,000 people fled to Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire. The plotters were disowned by Tutsi army chiefs, while Sylvie Kinana, the former President's Prime Minister, was persuaded to form a new government.

In April last year, Burundi's new president, Cyprien Ntiburunganya, and President Habyarimana of Rwanda were killed when their plane was shot down as they returned from a meeting to discuss the end of ethnic hostilities in Burundi. The UN predicted further outbreaks of violence.

POPULATION: 5,786,000
LANGUAGES: French, Kirundi, Swahili
RELIGION: Roman Catholic majority, animist minority
CURRENCY: Burundi franc
CAPITAL: Bujumbura
STATUS: Republic

Tel Aviv Holocaust auction scrapped

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A MISCELLANEOUS auction of Nazi Holocaust artefacts in Tel Aviv, including a bar of soap allegedly made from victims' bodies, was cancelled yesterday after a public outcry and the threat of police action.

The sale was to have taken place on April 25, two days before the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day on which every vehicle in Israel comes to a minute's halt as sirens wail throughout the country.

The auctioneers were also offering the yellow badges Jews were forced to wear and dog-tags from concentration camp inmates.

An urgent motion on the auction had been tabled in the Knesset and Roni Milo, the Mayor of Tel Aviv, and Yisrael Lau, one of Israel's two Chief Rabbis, were among those who campaigned to have it scrapped.

Yehuda Bauer, a Holocaust historian, said it was a Nazi-inspired myth that soap was made from bodies and the bar to have been auctioned had been issued to German troops.



Susana Fujimori will press on with her political career

Fujimori wife says marriage is over

Lima: The estranged wife of President Fujimori of Peru, stripped of her title as First Lady and barred from politics, said their marriage is beyond repair, although she was not seeking divorce immediately.

Susana Higuchi also promised to press on in politics despite repeated government

attempts to block her from seeking office in Sunday's national elections. "I have not begun the divorce proceedings because of the current situation, the conflict with Ecuador," she said, referring to a brief border war that ended with a peace accord in February. (Reuters)



Chelsea Clinton, left, with her mother Hillary in Sri Lanka, gathers some good publicity for the First Family

Chelsea Clinton makes political debut

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

FOR the first time in ages a member of the Clinton family is winning glowing reviews from the American media. The subject is not the battered president, however, nor even the widely loathed First Lady, but their 15-year-old daughter.

The Clintons have been fiercely protective of Chelsea, keeping her well out of the spotlight ever since her father first began his presidential campaign, but for the past week she has been accompanying her mother on a tour of the Indian sub-continent widely described as her international "coming out" party and debut on the public stage. She has

lunched with Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani Prime Minister, cuddled babies at Mother Teresa's orphanage in Delhi and sat with poor village women in Bangladesh. Each night the news has carried pictures of Chelsea posing happily with her mother in front of the Taj Mahal, riding an elephant in Nepal or visiting a mosque. She has rejected the "kid's programmes" laid on for her by the various US embassies, opting instead to share her mother's itinerary.

At an age when many adolescents are positively horrid, Chelsea has been "a delightful and serene presence on the trip, a sure source of pride for her mother," reported *Newsweek*. For all her

faults Mrs Clinton has "accomplished the most enviable thing of all. She has bought up a nice child," concurred a *Washington Post* columnist, adding that "the President may get some credit, too".

Chelsea has learned to take the crush of cameras and journalists in her stride, and the White House has for the first time relaxed its rigid rules for covering her. But while Chelsea has been winning hearts her mother continues to generate controversy - this time for her failure to generate controversy. This most active proponent of women's rights is being criticised for travelling through the sub-continent without explicitly condemning its notorious ill-treatment of women.

Bombing suspect arrested

DELHI: India is expected to ask Britain this week to extradite a suspected key player in a series of explosions that destroyed the Bombay Stock Exchange and several other buildings in 1993 (Christopher Thomas writes).

Iqbal Muhammad Memon, 45, was arrested in London on Monday. He is understood to be a British passport-holder. Mr Memon, of Hornchurch, Essex, also known as Iqbal Mirchi, is said to own several businesses around the world. Bombay police want to question him about the murder of a close associate last year and alleged possession of Mandrax tablets in 1993. They claim he was the main financier of the Bombay blasts.

Gingrich strikes deal on tax Bill with Republican rebels

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH has reached a compromise with rebel Republicans which makes it probable that the House of Representatives will approve tomorrow the *Contract with America's* tenth and final Bill - tax cuts for families and businesses.

Under the compromise, the tax cuts will not be implemented until the House and the Senate have approved, later this year, a plan for eliminating the federal deficit by 2002. The two dozen Republican dissidents had originally demanded that the tax cuts be revoked if Congress failed to achieve annual deficit reduction targets.

Mr Gingrich, the House Speaker, calls the Bill the "crown jewels" of the Con-

tract. It proposes a tax credit of \$500 (£310) per child for families earning up to \$200,000, a 50 per cent reduction in capital gains tax, and various tax breaks for businesses. It would cost an estimated \$189 billion over the next five years, making it still harder for the Republicans to find the \$1,200 billion in savings required to balance the budget.

With the economy in a healthy state there is no strong financial case for tax cuts, although Republican supply-side advocates say they would generate enough growth to offset their cost.

Mr Gingrich's greater motivation is to restore the Republicans' potent electoral claim to be the tax-cutting party.

Democrats are already striving to paint the plan as delivering more Reaganesque giveaways to the rich, financed by deep cuts in benefits for the poor and disadvantaged. Al Gore, the Vice-President, called it "Robin Hood in reverse".

Mr Gingrich and Mr Dole have named Jack Kemp, the former Housing Secretary, to head a new Republican commission on tax reform that will study the increasingly popular idea of replacing the present highly complex income-tax code with a "flat tax" rate of 17 or 20 per cent. A number of prominent Republicans, including some presidential candidates, have embraced the principle of a simple and enforceable "flat tax".

Gulf offer

Kuwait: Kuwait has offered economic and "moral" support for Bahrain after four months of anti-government unrest in which at least three policemen and nine civilians have died. (Reuters)

Cult assets

Tokyo: Aum Shinrikyo, the cult investigating after nerve-gas attacks in Tokyo's subway, has more than 2.5 billion yen (£18 million) in assets, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* newspaper reported. (Reuters)

Release ruled out

Nicosia: Taha Yassin Ramadan, Iraq's Vice-President, has ruled out the early release of two Americans jailed for eight years after mistakenly crossing the border from Kuwait last month.

Coach dies

Sydney: Franz Stampfl, who trained Sir Roger Bannister to become the first person to break the four-minute mile, has died in Melbourne, Australia, at the age of 81.

Losing hand

Roanoke: A Virginia man is suing a palm reader for nearly £2 million for selling him losing lottery numbers. Lola Rose Miller, already in jail for cheating customers, is being sued for the jackpot value. AP

Euro-MPs appeal to Clinton over British-born killer

BY BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK AND BILL FROST

THE European Parliament asked President Clinton yesterday to stop the execution of Nicholas Ingram, two days before the British-born convicted murderer is due to die in Georgia's electric chair.

In a letter to Mr Clinton, Klaus Haensch, president of the Parliament, wrote of the "abhorrence in much of Europe for execution by electric chair". He added: "Our appeal to you is made strictly on humanitarian grounds."

In Washington on Monday John Major said again that he could not intervene in the case, despite repeated appeals to the Prime Minister by the mother of the condemned man.

As the execution drew nearer lawyers for Ingram, 32, who was convicted of murdering a Georgia man in 1983, were preparing to appeal for clemency today before the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Two members of the English Bar's Human Rights Committee, Philip Sapsford, QC, and David Marshall, are expected to give evidence to the board. The British lawyers will argue that the American

practice of keeping prisoners on death row for many years contravenes international custom and constitutes cruel and unusual punishment, contrary to the American Constitution. The lawyers will ask that the sentence be commuted to life imprisonment.

Ingram's legal team will also argue that his murder conviction is unsound because Ingram was legally insane at the time of the murder and suffered from alcoholic blackouts which have left him with no memory of the event.

Mr Sapsford said that the basis of his plea would be the mental torture Ingram had suffered during 12 years on death row. "The court process has come to an end and we are into the clemency process."

"We are looking at it from the point of view that he has been on death row since 1983. That is nearly 12 years and he was only 19 when he was put in prison. He has been through feelings of hope and despair. Can you imagine the alternation of those two emotions? In Europe that is regarded as cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment."

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Fearful dons see off pioneer of superhighway seminars

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

A PLAN to build a "video campus" without teachers or buildings at one of America's largest universities has prompted outrage among academics. They foresee a brave new world when technology will make traditional teaching redundant. Michael Orenduff, Chancellor of the University of Maine, was forced to resign this week after his project to build an entirely new campus using interactive television ran into opposition from faculty members at the university's seven existing campuses.

Under Mr Orenduff's plan students would no longer need to attend lectures and classes, but could simply

tune in to their chosen subjects on television screens, either from home or other campuses, and then "interact" with a teacher hundreds of miles away.

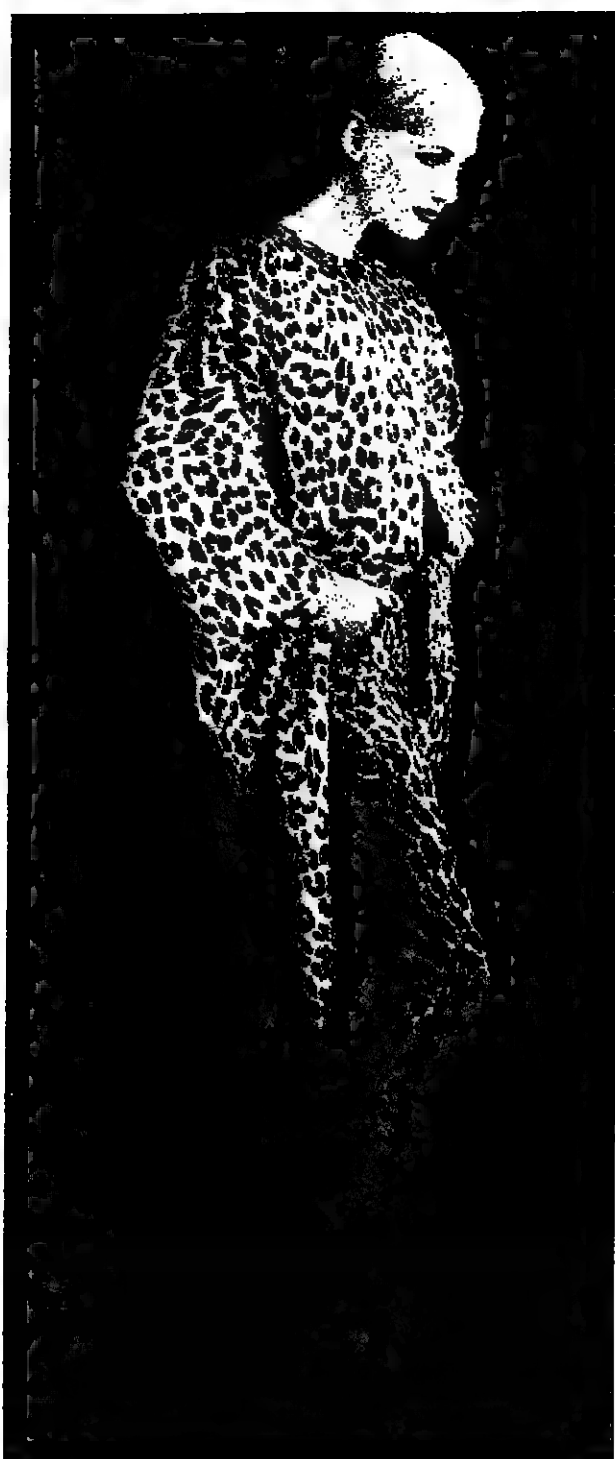
Faculty staff and students complained that the chancellor failed to consult them on these superhighway seminars, and several no-confidence votes were passed in the three weeks

leading to Mr Orenduff's resignation on Sunday.

Academic observers say the spat over the Maine project is only the first skirmish in what is expected to be a long-running dispute over "distance learning" and the effects of computer technology on higher education. Universities use videos and computers as a cheap alternative to personal tuition.

Fierce glamour goes in for the kill with Ninivah Khomo's seductive collections of animal-print designs

SPOT ON



Animal print satin coat, £450; fake fur capri pants, £275. Black patent mules, £135, Donna Karan, Russell & Bromley, selected branches nationwide. Black sheer tights, £3.50, Pretty Polly, major department stores nationwide

Although the designer Ninivah Khomo was busy in her shop in London during the recent Paris Fashion Week, a pair of her leopard-print trousers were strutting down the catwalk in the French fashion capital. As Rifat Ozbek took his bows at the end of his presentation at the Carrousel du Louvre, he modelled a pair of Khomo's unmistakable gold and black spotted pants, a made-to-measure favour for a long-time friend.

"I really admire her," Ozbek says. "She does her own thing rather than following fashion trends, and she does the animal-print thing the best." And at this moment Khomo's ritz animal-print designs are spot-on fashion's preoccupation with all things alluring.

"I studied at St Martins School of Art in the 1970s," Khomo says. "It was all Roxy Music and Amanda Lear. We'd go to the Embassy Club in Old Bond Street, or fly to Paris to go to Club Sept. Everybody dressed up, there wasn't any grunge or street fashion. If you were on the street you were glam. I like the glamour look."

This is an understatement. A trip to Khomo's shop in swanky Beauchamp Place in London confirms the design-



Khomo: "Once people get hooked, it's intoxicating."

er's fabulous fixation. The window is dressed to match her designs — a chaise longue and a tiny gilt chair are both covered with the feline fabric. Inside, everywhere you look has the distinctive mark of the leopard: the clothes hanging on the rail; a stole draped over a chair; jewellery and jewellery boxes (also for sale). "I got into leopard because of Biba," says Khomo, who was born in Nigeria but raised in England. Biba offered a Hollywood fantasy, a look which Khomo has since made her own. After her graduation in 1977, she immediately began retailing her designs, which caught the eye of Michael Roberts (at the time the fashion editor of *The Sunday Times*) who liked the sexy, seductive image.



Elegant tailoring in extravagant fabrics: long fake fur wrap, £300; matching strapless dress, £875; large diamond drop earrings, £125; matching bracelet, £35; long satin gloves, £39

Khomo has confidently stuck with the look regardless of fashion's twists and turns and, although never truly feted by the fashion press, she has never been short of customers.

"Once people get hooked on leopard it's intoxicating. They have to come back and buy something else," she says: "maybe a plain black jacket with a leopard collar, or the matching skirt or pants. If they've bought something and it's a success, they'll be back to find that thing again."

What they find at Ninivah Khomo is elegant tailoring in extravagant fabrics: predominantly the leopard-print story, although the designer also dabbles with other exotic animal markings. Fierce glamour. Exactly what fashion

is advocating right now.

"The sort of woman I'm dressing has always wanted this look. I've got a constant customer, clients from all over the world. When they go out wearing my clothes, they stand out and people make a fuss of them. It's a very sexy look."

Indeed it is. Alongside the fitted jackets and slim skirts hang stinky, strapless evening dresses, satin duster coats, trench coats and cropped capri pants — all cut in the catwalk.

Khomo is also aware that it takes a certain confidence to wear her designs. "You've got



Fashion
by
IAIN R. WEBB

to know what you're doing when you put my clothes on. It's silly if you put on a tight leopard dress and your hair is a mess, you haven't got any lipstick and you're wearing the wrong shoes. Forget it. But the women who buy it buy the package. They want the shoes, they want the handbag, and they enjoy it. They are predominantly women in their thirties and forties."

That Khomo and fashion have collided with such a perfect fit is not pure coincidence. With almost predictable regularity fashion offers a smart and shiny version of

itself as women demand clothes which make them look good and feel good too.

"A lot of women are relieved that they can get dressed up when they go out. You may not be able to afford fabulous new clothes, but you can buy a fabulous bright red lipstick, or a pair of gorgeous tights. That's my kind of look." "It's absolutely right for now," Rifat Ozbek says. Absolutely.

Photographs by MARTYN THOMPSON. Make-up by Micki Gardener. Hair by Rick Haylor for John Frieda using John Frieda products.

All clothes by Ninivah Khomo, available from 5 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (0171-591 0112).



Fake fur jacket, £375; matching skirt, £145; animal print gloves, £16.99; black patent clutch bag, £49.99. Black patent high dolly shoes, £39.99; Shellys, 285-270 Regent Street, W1 (inquiries: 0181-460 0066). Black sheer tights, £3.50, Pretty Polly, major department stores nationwide

● JAEGER'S summer wardrobe makes for easy shopping, especially when viewed on video. This is usually a perk for regular customers, but Jaeger has 50 spring/summer '95 videos to give away to readers of *The Times*. Send your name and address on a postcard to: The Jaeger Video Offer, Jaeger, 57 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FU.

● THOSE in the fashion business have long known the virtues of shopping at Marks & Spencer's flagship store at Marble Arch in London. Apart from housing the company's largest selection of lingerie it also sells small runs of high fashion pieces. The

latest is a range of Prada-esque bags, each costing £17. The handbag and convertible bag/rucksack are in navy-blue nylon, but will soon be available in black nylon and black and white patent leather.

● FOR EVER bemoaning the state of maternity clothing, many expectant mothers adopt leggings and an oversized shirt. But Harrods has a new arrival, a boxed wardrobe called The Pregnancy Survival Kit by Belly Basics. The four essentials, a dress, tunic, slim skirt and leggings, come in black cotton/Lycra, and the kit costs £129.

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Beware the baby planner

Good parents should never view their children as 'projects'

GOD-BLESS the British Psychological Society. Where would we mothers be without it? Nugget after nugget of white-coated wisdom comes our way: first they tell us that there is "no right or wrong way" of getting small babies to sleep at night. Then we get the revelation that babies learn things in the womb.

In this experiment, it became apparent that Professor Peter Hepper has never been pregnant, or else he would have known that when an unborn baby first hears a strange loud noise — a car door slamming, a siren, a trumpet — it kicks. Next time, having concluded that it presents no threat, the baby ignores that particular sound. Women tell male doctors these things and doctors smile indulgently.

Someone with an electronic sensor tells it to a conference and they all clap. But the best baby-talk was the theory that children born through IVF have "warmer, more loving" parents, even when there is no genetic link.

LIBBY PURVES

Human children born by IVF also happen to have older parents, since they have tried the cheap and cheerful method first. I have not been able to check whether the researchers used a control group of the same age. I hope there is nothing to be learned from comparing some slip of a girl, who surprised herself with a broodily intense madonna pushing 40, Nancy Mitford rightly observed half a century ago that older mothers were far more "wrapped up" in their babies than young ones, and hoped that this might be a bit oppressive for the babies. The older you get, the more people you have known, the more you know about the world, and the more you know about the world, the more you know about your own baby.

And the effects of IVF itself on family relationships? It was, admittedly, nice to have IVF parents given some ammo against paragonising earth-mothers. But I take exception to the headlines suggesting that IVF makes for the "best parent". The sample were all under eight, for heaven's sake, their parents barely off the nursery slopes and nowhere near the treacherous Black Run of secondary school and puberty.

Here, particularly, the "genetic connexion" dismissed by the researchers is very useful to family harmony. If you have a reckless child, or a chronically terrified one, or a stout short-sighted one, it makes life much easier if one or other parent can say "Mea culpa, it was my genes that did it". Or even "Oh God, that's Uncle Ted coming out".

Turning to Mitford again, we get the comforting theory that if we are unreasonable and short-tempered, some mysterious biological inheritance makes it likely that our children have the grit to take it, and bite back. I have always suspected that adoptive parents need more intuition and flexibility than most of us, and honoured them for it. Honour, too, for those who rear the progeny of an alien egg and sperm, with no Uncle Ted to blame for its tendencies.

But there is a disturbing subtext in the message, running through the news stories, that IVF parents

are more loving. The idea will be horribly pleasing to an age of anxious control-freaks already prone to believe that parenthood goes better if it is "planned". Not just in the negative sense of not having babies you can't cope with, but positively, managerially planned. Already we see gender selection clinics, prenatal education ("Help your Patau Get Ahead with Maths"), and people who time their conception to writing the greatest possible educational advantage out of the school year.

BUT children are not projects. A project is something you own, something you control, something you can manipulate. A child is not like that. A child is a little person, a self-programmed little time bomb which, quite rightly, does not feel it owes you much. It is a guest, not always a considerate one. Think of it as your project and you will be an awful parent.

Most IVF families are not, thank God, tempted that way. But any who are do well to remember that once pregnant, they start level with the rest of us, and must accept parenthood as the chance, frustrating, unsolicited adventure it is.

Bank workers thought they had jobs for life. Now their children know better. Lin Jenkins reports



Peter Duckett with his wife, Elaine, and daughter Elizabeth: "For the moment we can keep the house, but we still have to find the money to pay the mortgage. Others are in a worse position"

White-collar fright in suburbia

Peter Duckett was made redundant two years ago after 17 years in banking. With tens of thousands of other white-collar workers he has found that solid and respectable jobs once considered as safe as houses are fast disappearing.

He chose to work for a bank where the rewards were always moderate, in return for a secure future. But now, aged 47, he faces the reverse. "I did it because it would take me all the way to my pension. Now I doubt very much if I will ever again get a full-time, permanent job," he says.

At the weekend Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds Bank, issued a warning that 75,000 jobs would go in banking over the next five years, bringing the unemployment associated with the coal and steel industries and manufacturing to Acadia Avenue.

Mr Duckett's case, to a head, 1930s semi in Wordsworth Drive, Chesson, on the Surrey border.

Mr Duckett is the embodiment of the fear of redundancy that stalks the clerical employees of our suburban streets. His working life has been devoted to providing a secure environment for his wife, Elaine, and their three children: the best education, the little luxuries in life and, above all, stability.

As Ben, 20, Sam, 17, and 15-year-old Elizabeth embark on their careers, he cautions them against investing all their aspirations in a single employer. "Nobody gives jobs for life now. Everybody is on contract or working through an agency."

They have been quick to absorb the

obvious lessons from their father's fate, and are keen to develop marketable skills which would be attractive to a range of potential employers throughout their working lives, or will enable them to be self-employed.

"What keeps coming back to me is that when I left school it did not matter what job I did," Mr Duckett says. "If you did not like it or someone was offering more money you just walked around the corner and got another one." And that was precisely the pattern he followed until, as he says, "the alarm bells started ringing". The demands of his family and his natural wish to bring them up free from the anxiety of potential unemployment led him to a paternalistic employer.

"I took the job because it would see me through until I was 60. In those days the terms and conditions with a long mortgage were very attractive. I just wish I had heard the alarm bells in banking."

In 1977 Mr Duckett joined Williams and Glyn's on the clearing side in the City. By the time he was made redundant at the age of 45, along with

40 or so others, it had become the Royal Bank of Scotland, and he was earning around £25,000 and had a mortgage of £45,000 at a preferential rate and the prospect of a reasonable pension.

He left with a redundancy payment

'I took the job because it would see me through until I was 60'

of £24,000 but his mortgage rate will steadily increase over five years until it matches the customer rate. He is fortunate in that his house is worth more than £100,000, although that is £30,000 less than at the height of the housing boom.

"For the moment we can keep the house, but we still have to find the money to pay the mortgage. Others are in a much worse position and

have to sell their homes, even though nobody would choose to sell now."

However, there is still the nagging worry of how to pay for a long old age and help out the children when necessary. His short-term contract working for the banking union Bifu ends in November.

"It is an enormous blow to be told you are redundant. I have the children to think about, and even at 20 they can't afford to live on their own, so it all falls on to the family."

Sam, who leaves grant-maintained John Fisher School in Parley, Surrey, this summer after taking A levels in mathematics, English and geography, is toying with the idea of going to university. But he is loath to take on the financial burden alone, and has applied for a Ford scheme which would sponsor him through his studies.

"I encouraged him to go," says his father. "But there is no way that I could afford to send him." Nor does Sam wish to start working life saddled with a student loan when the job prospects for graduates are no better than for school leavers. He

already does part-time work in the local Sainsbury's to pay his way.

"He is looking around at the schemes companies offer for technicians and undergraduates. He needs qualifications which he can take from employer to employer. So many jobs these days are on contract, and nothing lasts for ever."

Ben has found that to be true. He is currently earning £150 a week doing landscaping by working for a reputable firm before one day taking the risk of setting up his own business.

Neither son ever considered banking as an option. With a forecast of one in five jobs disappearing over the next five years, on top of the 20 per cent already lost in the financial sector, they have both rejected clerical work in favour of developing specialised skills.

Elizabeth is just beginning to sift through the mountain of career advice from her parents, brothers, St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls, and the media. She feels fortunate in having an affinity with children and at present is determined to work with them.

"I know what I want to do," she states with the assurance reserved for the young. "I want to be a nanny." She cites flexibility and the freedom to choose her employer among the reasons for her decision. While she might yet change her mind, one thing is certain. "I am not going to work for a bank," she says flatly.

Officer, gentleman and movie star

For Douglas Fairbanks Jr acting seems more a duty than a vocation. Julia Llewellyn Smith meets a legend

DOUGLAS Fairbanks Jr is a relic from another age: an age when movie stars had smooth black hair, piercing eyes and luxuriant, most of their careers swinging across castle battlements and crushing swooning maidens to their deaths. When Fairbanks, 85, was a boy, films were still silent: action spoke louder than words and cinema audiences would cheer at the mere sight of his swashbuckling father, his diminutive stepmother Mary Pickford and their next-door neighbour Charlie Chaplin.

The Fairbanks ménage was the undisputed royalty of Hollywood, and Junior was the crown prince. Meeting him today makes me feel as a journalist might interviewing Prince William after the dissolution of the monarchy. The world has been transformed, but Fairbanks, dressed immaculately and speaking in the refined staccato of the early talkies, is a gentleman. He even bares the faintest trace of a snow-white moustache.

A true gallant, he knows that if you can find nothing good to say, say nothing. Of

the much vilified Joan Crawford, his first wife, he comments: "She was a very hard worker, very intense, always working on her self-development." Obsessive, I suggest. Fairbanks's blue eyes narrow slightly. "I don't want to talk about that and you don't either, although it's your job."

While quick to praise others, he is overwhelmingly self-deprecating. "I'm not proud of anything much, except my children," he says, you suspect sincerely.

Such diffidence could get tiring, a fact which the actor's third wife, Vera, is fully aware of. Tall, with dark hair and tinted glasses, Vera slips into the hotel suite where we are talking, introduces herself and sits in uninvited through the interview. She looks no more than 40, although logic suggests she is nearer 60, and is wonderfully supportive of her husband.

"You must be proud of your war record, I say to Fairbanks, while discussing the second

volume of his autobiography, *A Hell of a War*. No, no, says Fairbanks. Vera interjects: "This is the most modest man you are ever going to meet — he shies away from praise." Fairbanks giggles. "Mrs Patrick Campbell once heard someone say of someone 'She's so modest' and replied (upper-class baritone) 'Yes, my dear, but she's got a lot to be modest about. So do I.'"

"No you don't," tuts Vera. "I was telling someone the other day he did his military service from the heart, not because of any accolades." And so the conversation goes. Vera tells me how they went to the White House recently and Douglas wore his medals. "Schwarzkopf was the only person with the same amount."

"But he had important ones," says her husband. "Never mind. You had as many as he did."

"It's quality that counts, not quantity, dear."

"No," retorts Vera, somewhat missing the point. "You and the general were neck and neck."

"Oh hush."

"I don't think there's a country that you don't have a medal from."

"Guatemala?" giggles Fairbanks.

What Vera lacks in irony she makes up in accuracy. While her husband is understandably hazy on some details of his long life ("How did I meet my second wife? I don't know. I'd have to look it up in my book"), she is ever ready with fact sheets, CVs and lists of his 80 or so films which he consults before declaring that *The Prisoner of Zenda* and



Fairbanks: diffident

Gunga Din were his favourites. She tells me that Douglas has three daughters, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. "Thank you, darling," he says gratefully. She is uncharacteristically vague, however, when I ask how she and Fairbanks, who live in New York, met. "It was in Acapulco," she smiles. But when? Fairbanks's second wife, of 50 years, Mary Lee, died in 1988 and he married Vera in 1991. "It seems only yesterday," sighs Fairbanks. "I don't really remember," says Vera. A few transatlantic calls reveal it was 30 years ago.

Fairbanks's amiability (the writer Clemence Dane once said that his problem was "he likes everything he sees and he sees everything") combined with a flagging memory could have produced the blandest of memoirs. However, his book is surprisingly entertaining, especially the first, prewar, section when he has affairs with Marlene Dietrich and Gertrude Lawrence, hobnobs with Noel Coward and the British Royal Family and was best friends with Laurence Olivier and David Niven.

Fairbanks drifted among them, but the early chapters paint a portrait of a man trying to move out of his father's dashing shadow. His parents divorced when he was nine and his relationship with his father was awkward and uncommunicative until shortly before his death in 1939.

He tells pathetically how as a boy he mistook both Chaplin and Pickford for other children when he met them. "Chaplin was the only one who would go down the hill in my wagon with me," while Mary won his heart by playing with his toy trains. "I couldn't understand why a little girl like that would want to marry my father."

Acting seems to have been more of a duty than a vocation and he pushed to go to war as early as possible. He missed D-Day and admits his part in the liberation of Sicily was "a smidgen more than minimal". He won't write a sequel, he says, because everything after the war was an anticlimax. "He wrote the book all by himself," says Vera. "In another life he would have certainly been a writer." For once, you don't want to tell her to hush.

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Alan Coren



■ This could be the beginning of a beautiful comradeship...

Picture this. It is fetid midnight in a flyblown backstreet shebeen in old Ankara, pungent with the variegated miasma of rotgut, hashish, boiled offal, stale pommade, periodontal ruin, and old dog. At one end of the cellar, on an oil drum dais, an ageing belly-dancer arrhythmically shifts her various lumps about, as if a hummock of dough were being kneaded by invisible hands, to the tiny cackle of a wind-up gramophone and the contrapuntal clog of worry-bead. Above the dozen rickety tables, sporadic glow-worms seem to flicker, but they are only the wonky gold teeth of the barrel-bodied patrons, catching, as they grin, the scant light of bottled candle.

What are they grinning at? They are grinning at a demure blonde Welshwoman standing at the bar and nervously thumbing her phrasebook in search of the Turkish for a small pot of Earl Grey and a toasted teacake. They are grinning because she has a red rose in her lapel, and when a woman wears a red rose in Turkey it means, as all sophisticated travellers know, only one thing. But she is not a sophisticated traveller: she is wearing the red rose because she is the Labour member for Cynon Valley, and goes nowhere without it. That is Ann Clwyd's way.

It will not help her here. Already, the barman is nervously taking down his mirror, muttering "Of all the arak joints in all the towns all over the world, she had to walk into mine," because he knows that Clwyd, though he could never pronounce it, spells trouble. The clientele is pushing back its chairs. Some are tossing coins. Some are drawing lots. Several are wrapping their beads around their enormous knuckles.

But stay! Suddenly, the entrance's hanging plastic strips fly apart, as through them strides a riveting cynosure. Beneath his sole top, strong spectacles jut from the pocket of his bush shirt, pole four nasty-looking ballpoints; in his right hand he carries, deceptively loosely, his service clipboard. For this is none other than Indiana Cousins MP, known by every lowlife from Tangiers to Macao as a former member of Wallend Borough Council. He cups Ms Clwyd's trembling elbow in his strong pink palm, and, as the ragged curtains of black moustache drop sullenly over the glow-worms, bears her through the cheated mood to freedom. It is only when they are outside that he murmurs: "You crazy little fool, you might have got us both killed!"

Why do I invite you to picture this? Because that is precisely what Mr Cousins invited, after yesterday's tragic sackings. "I could not leave Turkey without Ms Clwyd," he declared in defence of his scolding of the Whips. "I felt obliged to protect her in a dangerous part of the world."

And, in so declaring, brilliantly — dare one say mischievously? — he left his sacker staring into an enormous can of worms. For what was this if not the very cleft itself of New Labour's dichotomy? Its leader had just embarked upon perhaps his only affirmative action, viz. positive discrimination in favour of female Labour candidates in order, some might say undemocratically, to rig the House of Commons in disaffavour, against the ambitions of many aspirant male Labour candidates. Yet here was a prominent member of the unreconstructed Left steadfastly maintaining that all those women MPs couldn't be left to wander this horrid world without a big strong chap at their side.

Now, under what past in politics for normal circumstances, this would be settled with no more blood shed than Mr Cousins's: the sacking would have the twin benefit of asserting the Leader's grit, while simultaneously nullifying outraged feminism. But New Labour is a bipolar beast, a Push-Me-Pull-You desperate to close its other set of teeth gently but firmly over the neck of Middle England and, growing support for traditional values, carry it off to its lair. And what could more appeal to back-to-basics fans than the notion that New Labour was a home fit for heroes prepared to stand up to all that Johnny Turk could throw at them to protect the honour of British womanhood?

Mr Blair has been set a problem. And whether Jim Cousins has helped him restore the Lost Ark to his wilderness party or consigned it once more to the Temple of Doom, who dares with any confidence predict?

Without policies that look to the future, Tory promises of recovery are worthless, says Gordon Brown

When taxes go up tomorrow for the 20th time since 1992, the electorate can be sure of only one thing. The only tax cut they have actually seen in the past three years is a Labour tax cut — the reduction in VAT on fuel from 17½ per cent to 8 per cent.

But Mr Major has done the cause of tax cutting no service by pronouncing on tax rates three years ahead, irrespective of the state of the economy. It is exactly the same mistake that he made before the last election. It is the action of a desperate Prime Minister, acting not because he can predict the economic cycle but simply because of the electoral cycle, matching a stop-go economic policy with a stop-go tax policy.

Sustainable tax cuts depend on sustainable growth, which in turn requires high and rising levels of investment. The unresolved question about the current state of the economy is why investment is failing to recover from the recession, while Britain's investment is so much lower than those of our competitors.

For investment is the key to economic growth. It is no surprise that over the past 15 years, Britain has had both the slowest average growth rate and the lowest level of investment of any of our competitors. Only an investment-led recovery can deliver the growth and tax revenues which Britain needs to rebuild our public services, and reduce the tax burden on ordinary tax payers.

But an investment-led recovery is precisely what the United Kingdom is not experiencing. Investment has started to rise later, and at a slower pace, than in either of the last two recoveries. No wonder that the Bank of England, in its

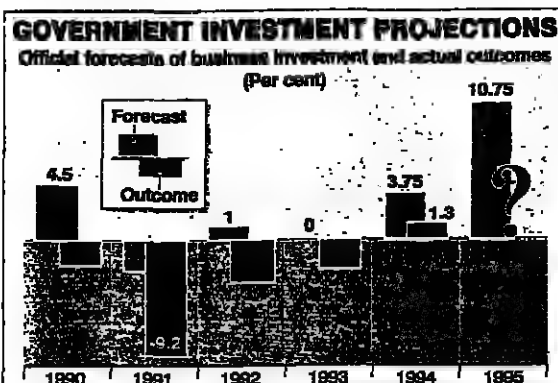
latest *Inflation Report*, noted that the economy was running against capacity constraints, and that low levels of investment pose a grave threat to the sustainability of recovery.

The fact is that the UK's wealth generating base remains too small to sustain anything other than sluggish growth without endemic inflationary problems. Indeed, the fact that the Government was forced to raise interest rates so early in the economic cycle, before consumers had even begun to see living standards recover, shows how weak the UK economy has become.

This is the reason why the Government's tax-cut promises will ring hollow this week in the minds of consumers and businesses alike. Households, seeing their living standards crushed by rising taxes and charges and stagnant real wages, know that this is not a sufficiently broad-based recovery.

But it is the fears of British business and their caution about investing in Britain's long term future which pose the real danger. Hearing ministers boast about the economy, you would

We need investment, not hollow tax cuts



think not only that investment has been booming but that some kind of "miracle" is under way. "The best set of economic circumstances for 30 years," is how the Prime Minister described the economy — although he made a similar boast back in 1988.

But look at the facts. Manufacturing investment has grown by a mere 3 per cent since the bottom of the recession. At the same point in the recovery of the early 1980s it had grown by 31 per cent, and by 21 per cent in the mid-1970s. The picture is even worse for private sector investment as a whole: it had not grown

at all by the end of last year. In the early 1980s it was up 18 per cent at this stage of the recovery, and by 19 per cent in the mid-1970s.

So the Government's talk of a virtuous investment-led recovery is still just talk. In the US, it is a reality — 30 per cent of the rise in US output since the trough is due to higher investment, according to the Bank of England. In Britain by contrast the bank shows that falling investment has actually reduced GDP growth by 1 per cent.

Even in the recovery of the early 1980s, investment started to rise consistently after four quarters of recovery, and while business investment did rise in the final quarter of last year (three years after the trough of the recession), it had fallen in the previous three quarters.

Investment will still be lagging behind the last two recoveries, even if the Treasury's forecast of a 10 per cent rise in business investment this year materialises. But the Government has forecast much higher investment than actually occurred in every one of the past five years, as the chart shows.

Why is business so wary about delivering the levels of investment which are needed to sustain growth and keep inflation in check? Part of the problem is the shortage of skills, which is a growing constraint on expansion, while high levels of long-term interest rates are increasing the cost of new investment.

But the real constraint on business investment is the Conservative Government itself. It is this Government which has failed to invest sufficiently in our skills and infrastructure, and it is this Government which has delivered the two deepest recessions since the Second World War, punctuated by a short-lived inflationary boom.

Households and companies alike need stability in macro-economic and tax policy, and a Government which can play its proper role in encouraging investment in skills and infrastructure. Instead the Government is spreading propaganda about tax cuts to come while businesses and voters are facing rising taxes and high interest rates today. No wonder they doubt this Government's motives.

Tax and fiscal policy must be driven by economic reality. The performance of the economy is the benchmark against which any tax pledges must be judged. Only a government which can deliver a strong economy with high levels of investment in industry, commerce, skills and infrastructure can credibly claim to offer both improved public services and sustainable tax cuts for lower and middle-income Britain.

The author is Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer and Member of Parliament for Dunfermline East.

Underneath, they're just like us

Bill Clinton and John Major may have their differences, but America and Britain are still blood brothers

A British Prime Minister has been in Washington. Praise be. Special Relationship watchers can come out of hiding and blink briefly in the daylight. Like Chuzzlewit's relatives, they call each other after long silences and ask after the old fool's health. They tut-tut and frown and assert that it can't be long now, Bosnia was "a catastrophe". The Gerry Adams affair was "terminal". The VE-Day snub was "significant". They note that France was granted a smile. Germany is believed to be much in favour. Of course the Far East is bound to get a lion's share. It is all very sad, so unlike the happy days of Churchill, Attlee, Macmillan, Thatcher...

But a Prime Minister is a Prime Minister for all that. If President Clinton prefers to watch a basketball game rather than greet John Major, so be it. His National Security Adviser, Tony Lake, flattered the British press with a "rare" weekend briefing and parroted those hoary old saws, "intelligence and security co-operation, the Falklands and the Gulf War". I wonder where the Special Relationship watchers would be without them. Down they come from the shelf on each Anglo-American visit. Clinton and Major embrace each other and murmur "intelligence and security co-operation". Tears well up as they repeat "the Falklands and the Gulf". The Gerry Adams affair — a stunning snub to an ally — is supposedly forgotten, as is Bosnia and VE-Day and a dozen other items of transatlantic contention. The relationship is declared in good health and the British Embassy throws an even better party than usual.

There is of course no special relationship between Britain and America. There is something deeply obscure called American foreign policy, and there is something deeply strange called the Anglo-American cultural tie. They are wholly distinct phenomena, coming together rather hesitantly only in world wars. At present neither Britain nor America has a foreign policy detectable to the naked eye, so there is no much point in talking about one. Bill Clinton meets John Major is like Forrest Gump meets the Madness of King George: a

confused guy with a box of chocolates and a lost soul whose aides are competing to prove him dory.

Ever since Attlee's Government decided Washington was a tin man with a heart of gold, London has not been able to cope with America's shambling view of the world. This week President Clinton wants new sanctions on Libya, for no clear reason. He is still well disposed towards Russia despite Chechnya and is pro-Turk as well as pro-Kurd. Next week this may change. After the Somalia debacle, America affirmed it would avoid all such ventures in future (as it did after Beirut). Now Mr Clinton has tasted a sort of triumph in Haiti. It looked and felt good. So who knows? He may raise the curtain on his re-election campaign with a quick Bosnian bombing adventure.

If so, Britain will be called upon to play a vital role, for which Douglas Hurd has already been rehearsed by the American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher. It is that of spineless wimp incapable of supplying European leadership as it did in the days of the Great Queen Thatcher (when it also failed, but we let that pass). As Mr Clinton's bombs incinerate any Bosnians in his way, Mr Major must express pained protest. This will help to portray the President as tough, unshakable, the Great Peace Enforcer, Roosevelt reborn. There will follow a "crisis in relations with Britain" and then a "reconciliation" round some absurd camp fire with security men in plaid shirts.

Such diplomatic antics are at times so vivid as to beggar belief. They are the millefeuilles of Washington table talk. Britain is a mere character actor in the essentially domestic drama of American foreign policy. Unlike Ireland and Israel, Britain suffers from the great disadvantage of being a real foreign country.

Sure, there is a relationship. Lear had a relationship with his Fool. Sure, America will help if Britain really needs it. Sure, Britain will help if America really needs it. But "special" relationship? Get serious.

Yet step out of the gilded Washington cage and pass into a different world.

Simon Jenkins



Anglo-Saxon attitudes: Forrest Gump meets mad King George

Beyond the pleasantries of diplomacy remains the robust constancy of America's Anglo-Saxon political and commercial culture. The House Speaker and current Alternative President, Newt Gingrich, goes on national television on Friday to boast the first 100 days of his *Contract with America*. His programme is highly specific, and familiar to Britons. It is for less government intervention, for devolution, a reduction in welfare entitlements, balanced budgets and action on crime and the family.

This is Lady Thatcher vintage 1987-9. Gingrichism is a reassertion of the anti-trust, free trade, individualistic capitalism which the French economist Michel

Albert has rightly declared is a total contrast to the corporatist "Rhine" version favoured by Latin countries and Japan.

Mr Gingrich's *Contract with America* has little in common with the political outlook of the French, German or Italian Governments, or with the inhabitants of the Brussels Commission. His economy is not that of the corporations that run Japan. His enemies are the scions of America's ethnic politics, affirmative action for minorities, corporate lobbyists, government departments and a voracious public appetite for subsidised medicine. They are America's version of M. Albert's corporatist capitalism. Mr

Gingrich has his quirks and believes in the trauma of extremism to carry his point. But the show he is trying to keep on the road is the old Anglo-American democracy and the free market economy.

Of course Americans of other national backgrounds support such a campaign. But as Tocqueville noted, it was the British tradition that forged the American Constitution, both by example and by warning. That was why the British colonies were so different from the colonies of France or other European states — and more successful, in Tocqueville's view. That was why North America was not South America. Mr Gingrich's supporters frequently declare that their ambition is to succeed where President Reagan failed, in applying the principles of Thatcherism to American government.

This essentially cultural bond between Britain and America is growing closer rather than further apart. Britain is the biggest European investor in American property. Britons are, believe it or not, still the biggest legal immigrant nation into America. Enterprising American office workers and you will hear an English accent — just as American accents are familiar in London offices. This operates far beyond the chandeliers of media and entertainment, where to be British in America is not really to be foreign.

The greatest bond of all is emerging from the industry expanding faster, I am told, than any since the railway boom of the last century: that of Internet technology. This promises to outstrip all previous computer phenomena, and is inducing near-hysteria in corporate headquarters. Jobs in banking and financial services are plummeting as millions of Americans prepare to go onto the net. Every home that now has a television and a telephone will in time be online to "all the information in the world", shopping, banking, hobbies, libraries and the booming discussion forums. The net's capacity to declare the worldwide "best buy" in anything could wipe out millions of salesmen. The Internet speaks English, and the country closest behind America in its development is Britain. The capacity of this innovation to bind together the English-speaking world is beyond exaggeration. I believe that Anglo-Saxon capitalism, Anglo-Saxon democracy and Anglo-Saxon language still form the bedrock of America's political culture. They are there whenever the hurricane sweeps the surface soil away, whenever the noise dies down. But of course the subject is far too delicate to mention. Reticence, with just a touch of smugness, is another Anglo-Saxon value.

Major's fist

THE LETTER from John Major to the mother of Nicholas Ingram explaining why he cannot intervene in American judicial procedures has given graphologists a rare opportunity to study the prime ministerial school of handwriting. Experts have been poring over the letter, which was published yesterday, to examine the method that lies behind the man. It appears that the Prime Minister has yet to master fully the "joined-up" technique, and there are suggestions that he needs to study harder.

The most authoritative view comes from the City, where graphologists are commonly employed by financial institutions to vet job applicants. One leading player talked of an angular writing style distinguished by its sloping "y" and "g", and an "l" which is curiously inconsistent.

Another, who vets applications for a number of merchant banks, had firm views as well. "It shows he is very ambitious and determined and all that. But it suggests he is not as intellectually evolved as other people. He does not have a rounded intellect."

That there are no proper grounds for the British Government to intervene with the Prob of Gump. I am so sorry that this decision will be spelling for you. With great regard, John Major

Clue to the Prime Minister's character: the letter to Anne Ingram

The graphologist admitted that she would need to see the original letter to make a full assessment of Mr Major's character — pressure points in this game are a sure indication of inner defects.

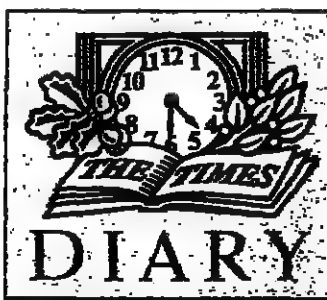
But the style of Major's scribble is not unknown in her world of City types. "A lot of bankers are like this," she explained. And Major as we know, worked with Standard Chartered for some years.

Trail blazer

THE BBC was braced for complaints from politicians about its *Panorama* interview with John Major, which Scottish judges stopped from being broadcast because of its potential influence in the forthcoming local elections. But it could hardly have expected a complaint from David Dimbleby, the man who conducted the interview.

On the day before the programme was broadcast, however, Dimbleby was apparently on the blower to the BBC, complaining with justification that he wasn't mentioned in a trailer for his interview.

The corporation couldn't do anything about it because Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, Robin Cook, had already complained that the trailer resembled a Tory party



political broadcast. And any alterations would have been seen as kowtowing to Labour.

Run in

A MOVING tale of blood, sweat and tears has emerged from the London Marathon at the weekend. It concerns one of the speediest septuagenarians on the planet, who claims he was cheated of the triumph he deserved.

John Keston, 70, ran all 26 miles and 385 yards of the marathon in 3hrs 1min 35secs. The fastest recorded time for a 70-year-old is 3hrs 1min 14secs. And Keston believes he could have beaten the record had he not been tripped by another runner between the 13th and 14th mile.

"Somebody pushed me from behind as he was trying to get at some

water, then I stumbled and got tripped up. It was awful. It took me 30 to 40 seconds to recover and I missed the record because of it." The British Athletic Federation can only sympathise. "But if it's any consolation, he wiped ten minutes off the fastest British time," says its road-running statistician David Walsh.

Last request

THE FUNERAL of Kenny Everett, the wacky disc jockey who died yesterday, will be a private affair for family and close friends. There will be heavenly music if Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* is anything to go by. He said that he would like to head upstairs accompanied by an ethereal work by Puccini.

"I've chosen Puccini's *Symphonie Prelude* because it's just the most beautiful record I have ever heard," he told Sue Lawley. "If I ever do die, I'm hoiked aloft in a ray of God's lovely sunbeam I would like this to be on the gramophone."

Cover point

AFTER THE curse of *Hello!*, whereby celebrities seem immediately to come a cropper after featuring in the gushing glossy, we have the curse of *Playfair Cricket*



Darren Gough: jinxed?

Annual. It appears that anyone featured on the front cover of the pocket book in Spring invariably suffers a dismal season.

It was Michael Atherton's turn to grace the cover last year. He soon became embroiled in a row over ball tampering. Yesterday, when the 1995 edition was published, Darren Gough was on the cover.

"Rumours have grown during recent years concerning the jinx imposed by being portrayed on this annual," said the editor, Bill Frindall. "The arrival in Melbourne of a proof of this cover preceded by barely an hour the injury which ended Gough's tour. Easy

payments can be arranged for players not wanting to be profiled."

Snap shut

AS IF John Major needed reminding about the high-profile visit recently to America of a certain Irishman. When he went up Capitol Hill yesterday to meet members of the House of Representatives' international relations committee, he was politely requested by the Republican chairman, Benjamin Gilman, to sign the visitors' book.

Whose photograph should Major find staring at him when he opened the book but Gerry Adams? "I think you know this fellow," suggested Gilman — for he had welcomed the Sinn Féin President last month. Calmly turning to a fresh page, Major replied through gritted teeth: "Indeed I do."

● The trend for upper-crust car boot sales continues. The latest line in stately bargains will be held at Burghley House, Lincolnshire, in June by Lady Victoria Leatham. Among those conning their attic for heirlooms to discard on behalf of the Red Cross will be the Countess of Yarrowburgh and Lady Caroline Ogilvy.

P.H.S



OUT OF COURT

A bad day for the BBC: a worse day for Labour reputations

The Labour and Liberal Democrat parties did a deep disservice yesterday to the cause of independent broadcasting, self-regulation and freedom of speech. And then their representatives stood outside a Scottish court and boasted of what great benefits they were bringing to those causes. A certain amount of cant and hypocrisy can perhaps be forgiven in a politician around election day: yesterday the Shadow Scottish Secretary, George Robertson, consumed his ration of forgiveness for the rest of time.

Mr Robertson told BBC News that the question at issue was not one of "censorship" but of "partiality" — an argument that showed only the short span of his horizons. What he described as a "major day for the independence of the BBC" was a day on which a precedent of prior censorship was set, a day on which the judicial process was allowed to interfere in an editorial decision by political journalists at the BBC. Mr Robertson is entitled to his view that the broadcasting of the *Panorama* programme so close to the Scottish elections was an editorial error. Many might agree with him. But the freedom to make bad editorial decisions demands at least as much protection as the freedom to make good ones. The court should have had no part here — and Mr Robertson's party, if it makes any claim to responsibility for office, should not have called upon it to do so.

For practical purposes, the political censors have won this battle. It would be a serious defeat for freedom of expression were they to win the war. If the court's interim edict remains upheld, this case could set a precedent for politicians the length and breadth of the land to take broadcasters to court whenever they believe — as members of all parties have alleged down the years — that they are not being "impartially" treated.

The duty of impartiality is no light matter in the history of the BBC. It is enshrined in its Charter and integral to the trust reposed in it by the public. The BBC's statutes and internal regulations strike a careful balance between the requirements of freedom and its acknowledged responsibilities. But getting the balance right in practice cannot ever be purely mechanistic: a matter of counting the minutes allotted to politicians or to different viewpoints. Because judgment must enter in, the BBC's freedom is meaningless unless

it includes the freedom to judge wrongly. Observance of BBC guidelines is monitored by an internal committee of advisers to the Director-General, who are independent of programme producers. In the *Panorama* case, these self-regulatory procedures were followed. There is also an appeals procedure for the public: with the BBC's board of governors at its apex.

Had Labour and the Liberal Democrats followed this route, the board might well have agreed that the BBC got this particular decision wrong. Given the great sensitivity of Scots to London's say over programming, the BBC's political antennae should have been more alert. Many Scots firmly believe that the BBC would never have offered Mr Major the *Panorama* slot just before English elections — a complaint to which the BBC has yet to give a convincing response.

These arguments do not affect the more important issue of principle, which is that to have had recourse to the courts over a single programme was a step out of all proportion to the offence. "Impartiality" is a quicksand for lawyers and the law should stay clear of it. It is not certain that the BBC's internal guidelines are justiciable at all: even granted its general duty of impartiality, these are internal house rules. What ought to be clear is that for the general duty to be sufficient ground for a legal challenge, there should be clear evidence of political distortion or persistent and concerted editorial bias, sustained over a period of time. Even then, this should not be made an opportunity for prior censorship.

The energy politicians put into accusing the BBC of bias is equalled only by the zeal with which they naturally seek to exploit its airwaves for party political advantage. That is good reason for setting the threshold for judicial intervention high enough to forestall political interference with individual programmes and editorial decisions. This week's suit forms part of a disturbing growth of support among MPs for statutory controls of the press and a tighter rein on broadcasters. The print and broadcast media have a firm interest in effective self-regulation. This week, the public have had a foretaste of the alternative. Whatever their views on the *Panorama* programme, they should recoil from remedies that would be far worse than the disease.

TO SAVE BURUNDI

Towards a common action plan for an African emergency

Burundi and Rwanda, the blood-soaked twins of Central Africa, will mark a bitter anniversary tomorrow: their Presidents perished together, a year ago to the day, when their plane was shot down near the Rwandan capital, Kigali. In Rwanda, the most savage example of documented genocide since Cambodia's Year Zero ensued, as the Hutu extremist Interim Government orchestrated the slaughter of one in every two of the country's Tutsi minority.

The huge scale of the Rwandan emergency has deflected attention from the tense situation in Burundi, which has the same explosive ethnic mix of majority Hutu and minority Tutsi. This crisis cannot now be ignored. This week, an estimated 400 Hutus were massacred by a combination of Burundian soldiers and local Tutsi militia; diplomats and aid workers fear the worst.

As if Burundi's own ethnic equation were not complex enough, there are in the country some 200,000 Hutu refugees from Rwanda. These Hutus, who fled to Burundi fearing repression from the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front Government, are now attempting to escape to Tanzania from Burundi's Tutsi-controlled Army. The Tanzanian authorities, understandably, have closed their borders: the country simply cannot cope with even more refugees than it has already. The logical place for the Rwandan Hutus to go is of course to Rwanda — yet their successful repatriation will not be possible until the grip in which they are held by Hutu extremists is broken.

Burundi, unlike Rwanda in its frenzied months of genocide, is governed by a fragile alliance of moderates under a Hutu President and Tutsi Prime Minister: the extremist forces of either tribe do not have the same degree of state patronage as the Hutu extremists, the *Interahamwe*, did in Rwanda. But President Ntandanyanya has little control over his almost entirely Tutsi army, which has been known to act in murderous tandem with civilian Tutsi death squads.

A military coup could therefore mean that today's serious communal violence could spread into wholesale massacres and civic collapse. There is still time to prevent that. International efforts to rebuild Rwanda must be pursued with increased vigour, so that Rwandan Hutu refugees can leave Burundi at an early date. As for Burundi, the Convention of Government — signed by 12 political parties on September 10, 1994, in order to establish institutions of "consensus" — must receive the formal backing of the UN Security Council. There is urgent need, also, to rebuild the country's judicial system and to post UN human rights monitors.

Of equal importance is the need to strengthen greatly the role and numbers of the military observers from the Organisation of African Unity. There are a mere 46 present today. The West has spent an estimated \$1 billion in aid to rebuild Rwanda after that country's disintegration. Cannot even a fraction of that sum be spent today on precautionary measures to shore up order and protect the people of Burundi?

STRICTLY OLYMPIAN

Ballroom dancers may soon be quickstepping for Gold

To most sports enthusiasts, the possibility that ballroom dancing may become an Olympic event must seem nothing short of heretical. The International Dance Sports Federation has fought a long campaign to be included in the Summer Games, alongside other probationary activities such as roller skating and trampolining. The Sydney Olympics in 2000 may now feature the samba, the quickstep and the foxtrot.

The Lycra catsuits, skimpy dresses and suburban kitsch of formation dancing certainly do jar with the gladiatorial image of the Olympics. Yet grace and co-ordination have been an important part of the modern Games, as the inclusion of archery and shooting from its beginnings illustrates. Figure skating has been part of the tournament since 1908 and ice dancing since 1976. More recently, rhythmic gymnastics and synchronised swimming have been added. Such sports may not be to everyone's taste but they do not, as some claim, undermine the principles upon which the modern Olympic movement was founded.

Equally, none should doubt the athleticism of first-class dancers. Part of the explanation for the pastime's phenomenal popularity in the last ten years has been its attraction as an entertaining, sociable form

of keep-fit. To learn the tango is far more exciting than step-exercises or aerobics.

Nor does ballroom dancing lack competitive spirit. As the viewers of *Come Dancing* well know, its glittering prizes inspire fierce rivalry and hard-fought contests. In Oxford and Cambridge, it is already a half-blue sport. A pasodoble may not force human beings to the limits of endurance in quite the same way as a 100-metre sprint or weightlifting. But it requires no less determination and dedication. The combination of glamour, suspense and skill — qualities brilliantly showcased in the film *Strictly Ballroom* — has made formation dancing an enormously popular spectator event.

Britons, finally, have patriotic reasons for supporting this suggestion. Ballroom dancing has become a truly international pastime, as popular with the Japanese Imperial Family as it is with the Czech middle classes. But its modern origins lie in this country where it developed after the war in Mecca ballrooms. Five million people a week go ballroom dancing in Britain. The studios of Streatham and Pease are full of devoted competitive dancers who would give their favourite spangled shirt for the opportunity to be an Olympian. Offered the chance, they may yet lead the nation to sequinned glory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Scottish judges' ruling and politics on the BBC

From Mr John Pinks

Sir, Scottish judges prevented *Panorama* from being shown last night in Scotland (report, April 4). The banning of this programme has been headline news on BBC news programmes all this morning. Forget this country, forget the rest of the world. The BBC has been insulted. We must want to know about it *ad nauseam*.

How do we curb this monster that presumes far too much?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PINKS,
Mills Folly, Burnham Beeches,
Buckinghamshire,
April 4.

From Miss Beryl M. Goldsmith

Sir, The little tartan toadies of the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties have grossly insulted the Scottish people, as well as citizens of north east England. Why not also call for a ban on press reports of the Prime Minister's interview? Or cannot Scots read?

Biggest joke of all is Mr Alex Salmond demanding parity with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,
BERYL M. GOLDSMITH,
34 Thomas More House,
Barbican, EC2,
April 4.

From Mr Tim Symonds

Sir, It is inconceivable to me that the BBC should offer a stage-managed, high-profile slot like *Panorama* during an election period without at once creating a fair balance for the contending parties.

This is not an intrusion on the BBC's privilege to decide what is fair and balanced. It simply takes into account the frenetic, highly-charged, extremely competitive atmosphere we need in a democracy to enable the party system to function within certain important rules.

Yours sincerely,
TIM SYMONDS,
The Lodge, Conock Manor, Wiltshire.

From Mrs Elyn Craven

Sir, Not having seen all the manifestoes of the candidates in the local

election on Thursday, I have not yet decided where to cast my vote. However, to suggest that a 40-minute interview with the Prime Minister, dealing with national and international affairs, would influence the Scottish electorate's voting intentions, is to imply an ignorance of the issues involved and a naivety on our part which beggars belief.

Yours faithfully,
ESLYN CRAVEN,
Keepers Cottage,
Lanrick, Doune, Perthshire.

From Mr Hubert de Castella

Sir, Would not a suitable compromise be for the interview to go out in Scotland, but with the Prime Minister's words spoken by an actor — or might this be seen as giving further advantage to the Conservatives?

Yours etc,
HUBERT DE CASTELLA,
Cedar House, Newton Solney,
Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire.

From Mrs Sandra Lewin

Sir, If John Major is allowed to appear on *Panorama* before an election, isn't that giving unfair advantage to the Labour Party?

Yours faithfully,
SANDRA LEWIN,
3 Bourne End Road,
Northwood, Middlesex.

From Mr Nigel Hollingdale

Sir, The answer for the BBC in the present controversy seems simple — no party political broadcasts. The result: perfect "balance" for the politicians; significantly improved programming; and general relief on both sides of the border.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL C. HOLLINGDALE,
1 Racecourse View,
Lyndhurst, Hampshire.

From Sir Neil Prichard

Sir, I do not think the Tories are specially picked on by broadcasters. Neither do I think that all is as well as the heading on your leading article suggested ("When Ministers whinge and memos wing, all must be well", March 31). Politicians should not be allowed to get away with too much:

and it would be nice to have misinformation corrected, evasions exposed, the truth revealed and so on. Instead presenters far too frequently indulge in petty, tendentious and repetitive efforts to make fifth-form debating points.

Presenters are not doing their job well, as Mr John Birt recently pointed out (article, February 8), to the anguish of many of us.

Clarke and Heseline have boisterous fun dealing with such interruptions; and it is equally good fun when Edward Heath simply goes burling straight on (when this listener loudly applauds). But none of this contributes one little bit to the probing of politicians' policies and capabilities: it is merely to prove politicians' technique in handling this quiz show.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL PRITCHARD,
Little Garth, Daglingworth,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

From Mr R. M. Purcell

Sir, The Archbishop of York (letter, March 30) defends the strong questioning style of John Humphrys and Jeremy Paxman. For many I imagine it is not so much the strength of their attacks but the daily hectoring censoriousness which has become tiresome and irritating. More seriously, I suspect that this unremitting self-righteous fault-finding by self-appointed tribunes of the people must contribute insidiously to our current lack of national self-confidence.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL PURCELL,
French Mill Cottage,
French Mill Lane,
Shaftesbury, Dorset.

From Miss M. E. Powling

Sir, I am very grateful to BBC presenters, like John Humphrys, who ask politicians questions which the electorate wish to have answered.

If those politicians are then pressed for an answer, which they frequently refuse to give and which they waste so much time evading, then the presenters should be praised not castigated.

Yours faithfully,
MARY E. POWLING,
6 Brook Lodge,
28 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex.

London 'flagship' for African culture

From the Ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique and others

Sir, We write on behalf of high commissioners and ambassadors of African governments to the Court of St James's. In the hope that you will bring to the attention of your readers a major initiative to provide Africa with a cultural flagship in Europe.

For over 30 years the Africa Centre, situated in Covent Garden, London's cultural heartland, has informed the British public and visitors to London about African culture and society. The centre has recently adopted plans which will not only make this Grade II building financially viable but also revitalise its programmes.

The potential of a redeveloped and sustainable Africa Centre to promote African art culture and ideas was recognised by the Organisation for African Unity at its ministerial meeting last year, when it passed a resolution endorsing the centre's plans and calling for them to be supported. In 1991 and 1992 assistance from the governments of Nigeria, Botswana, Uganda, Zambia and Ghana provided the centre with the opportunity of a new lease of life.

The redevelopment plans provide for greatly improved facilities, including a conference centre, cinema, art galleries, meeting rooms, craft centre, bookshop, restaurant and dance hall, with office space to let.

In this year when Africa's art, dance, music, theatre, sport, literature and cinema will be celebrated on a scale never before experienced in Britain, during the forthcoming Africa 95 season, the case for an Africa Centre along the lines envisaged gains added weight. Its success will be very much to the credit both of Africa and the UK, and to the individual organisations which choose to support it.

Yours sincerely,

ARMANDO A. PANGUENE

(Ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique)

MOHAMED SHAKER

(Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt)

M. K. TSEKOA

(High Commissioner for the Kingdom of Lesotho)

c/o The Africa Centre,

38 King Street, WC2,

April 3.

Night at the opera

From the General Director of English National Opera

Sir, How ironic that your reporter (who was not even present at the British premiere of *Life with an Idiot*) should cobble together a fictitious story (report, April 3) about a first-night "calamity" threatening ENO, the morning after the company triumphantly carried off the Olivier Award for the year's best opera production.

How blinkered of Rodney Milnes to pronounce that Jonathan Moore's production was "an important work heedlessly trampled" (arts, April 3) when ten feet away from him on the opening night stood the work's co-creator Viktor Erofeev, whose opinion he might have canvassed before rushing into print. Milnes's opinion is his own concern but let the librettist Erofeev have the last word in a letter he has just written to Mr Moore:

I know that my piece could be done in many different ways. But your London production has its unique interpretation which I found very faithful to the spirit of the book.

I would like you to thank all the wonderful singers, whose voices I shall remember for a very long time. Please send the entire company — singers, musicians and staff — my very best wishes for great success with all the future performances in London and Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

DENNIS MARKS,

General Director,

English National Opera,

London Coliseum,

St Martin's Lane, WC2,

April 4.

Old acquaintance

From Mr Antony Chinnack

Sir, Squadron Leader Horsfall (letter, March 31) is not alone.

After you published a letter from me in November 1985 I was contacted by an old friend of my brother who, 13 years my senior, was killed in 1942. My father had been a guest at his parents' wedding in Cape Town in 1901 and on leaving school in 1925 he had joined the company for which my father worked and had been trained by him.

We had had no contact since 1939. Our home is now within two miles of his and we meet regularly for lunch.

Yours faithfully,

ANTONY CHINNECK,

40a Bedhampton Hill,

Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire.

From Mr H. Ian Carlton

Sir, You were good enough to publish my letter of March 14 in defence of Perthshire's gun-dogs. My satisfaction at this was complemented by the subsequent receipt of a letter from an old shipmate to whom I was best man in 1956. Time, and many and frequent changes of address in UK and overseas, had resulted in our losing touch. Thanks to your pages we look forward to a substantial dram and reunion after 39 years.

Yours truly,

H. IAN CARLTON,

Croftlea, by Piltchery, Perthshire.

Ban on landmines

From Mr T. G. Oliver, Assault Engineer, Royal Marines (retd)

Sir, The statement by the Director of the Mines Advisory Group, Mr Rae McGrath (letter, March 21), that Britain has never made non-detectable mines is inaccurate and misleading. Over the past 40 years there have been several such mines: the British No.6 anti-personnel mine, plastic and carrot-shaped; the "Red Elm", diminutive but deadly; the ceramic, light anti-tank mine; and the plastic-bodied BAE mine.

All of these British mines, many of which are in use today, are designed to be "undetectable" with the simple removal of a metal detector-ring or plate. However, the meaning of the term "non-detectable" has changed in recent years with the advent of microwave technology (if you have access to this equipment).

Public naivety, fostered by such statements, is reflected in a subsequent letter (March 24) in which the writer states that a "non-detectable" mine would be the ultimate horror. Landmine warfare is a complex subject which requires serious elucidation.

In the meantime, the manufacture, deployment, clearance, and alleged recycling of mines appears to be a money-spinner for all concerned except the hapless victims of these evil weapons.

Yours faithfully,
G. OLIVER,
Sunnyside,
Radcliffe Lane, Exmouth, Devon,
April 3.

Sir William Hayter

From Sir David Lumsden

Sir, Generations of New College choristers will remember what came to be known, during Sir William Hayter's term as Warden, as "Warden's use" (obituary, March 30).

My time as organist and music fellow there (1959-76) coincided almost exactly with his as Warden. He loved music and knew a great deal about it, but could not abide the Elizabethan pronunciation of the word-ending -ion — eg, as in tempta-t-ion. So adamant was he about this that I had to instruct the choir that whenever the Warden was present we must avoid all such pronunciations, quite a difficult assignment in some anthems and service settings, particularly without warning or rehearsal.

I considered it a very small price to pay in return for his loyal and vigilant support of the musical life of the college. It also kept the choir (and me) on our toes.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID LUMSDEN
(Vice-President,
Royal Academy of Music),
Milton House, Soham,
Cambridgeshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5044.

Recall of sexual abuse

From Mr Allen Esterson

Sir, In relation to the recent case in which the prosecution admitted that a woman's alleged memories of childhood sexual abuse by her father were fictitious, your report (March 29) that a recent inquiry by the British Psychological Society into false memories reported that most recovered memories were accurate when obtained without inappropriate pressure on the patient, and that nine out of ten accredited practitioners believed recovered memories were mostly accurate.

It is important to appreciate that this part of the British Psychological Society report was based on questionnaires recording the beliefs of some of the very people who are involved in therapy in which early memories are supposedly recovered.

It is unsurprising that therapists who have treated patients who have apparently recovered memories of early experiences should believe these memories to be generally authentic.

Star-struck

From Mr T. E. Baker

Sir, My wife and I, in common with Mrs Barbara Brill (letter, March 23), have nostalgic memories of Harold Pinter starring in the Hackney Downs/Dalston County 1948 production of *Romeo and Juliet*. For we first met when taking part in Joseph Brearley's colourful production and thus our two children and five grandchildren owe their existence to Brearley's infectious interest in English drama. But that is not all. To this day my left knee bears the scar of a lunge by the youthful Romeo. Not with his vengeful rapier, however, but with his football boot, whilst we were relaxing between rehearsals at our Lower Edmonton sports ground. Your further correspondent, Professor Supple, alias Mercutio (letter, March 25), was keeping goal.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY BAKER,
153 Green Dragon Lane,
Winchmore Hill, N21.

End of a dynasty

From Mr David Pierce

Sir, In a report on the Queen's tour of South Africa (March 27) you stated that the Prince Imperial of France was killed at Rorke's Drift. That battle took place on January 22-23, 1879. The Prince Imperial did not sail from Southampton until February 28.

He was, in fact, killed during Lieutenant-General Lord Chelmsford's second invasion of Zululand, on June 1, 1879, in an incident which caused the British considerable embarrassment. It was considered that the Prince should not have been allowed to accompany a mobile patrol on which there was any element of danger. He was, after all, not a member of the British Army but merely an "observer".

Disraeli's words — "A remarkable

people these Zulus. They have conquered our generals, converted our bishops and put an end to a great European dynasty" — can therefore have only been made after the Prince's death, which brought the Napoleon dynasty to an end.

I have recently returned from visits to Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift — a memorable and moving experience made more dramatic for me by the fact that I served with the 24th Regiment, by then the South Wales Borderers, in Aden in the 1960s.

The first battalion of the 24th and one company of the second were wiped out at Isandhlwana and one company of the second battalion won seven VCs at Rorke's Drift.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PIERCE,
Spring Cottage, Wheal Frances,
Goonhavern, Truro, Cornwall.



How does your value grow?

value. The right buyer will pay quite a premium for the package."

Suffolk cottages at Bedfield, left, and at Snape: Savills is having trouble finding buyers

[illegible]

Canary W.



PROPERTY 29
New signs of life
in the London
commercial market



ARTS 30, 31
Your guide to
the Continent's
summer festivals



SPORT 35-40
Screen test for the
millions hoping to
follow Jordan's trail

MARATHON:
SEE HOW
THEY RAN
Page 35

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY APRIL 5 1995

Merger to create £265m bus firm

By SARAH BAGNALL

THE rapid consolidation within the bus industry continued apace yesterday with the planned merger of Badgerline and GRT to form the second-largest bus operator in the UK.

FirstBus, the new company, will have a market capitalisation of £265 million, a fleet of 5,600 vehicles and 14,400 staff. It made a combined pre-tax profit in 1994 of £24 million on turnover of about £350 million. In terms of turnover, FirstBus will have a market share of 11.1 per cent, behind Stagecoach's 15.1 per cent. Currently, Badgerline is third largest, with 9.8 per cent, and GRT is seventh largest, with 3.7 per cent.

The deal, seen by several analysts as a reverse takeover by GRT's management, involves issuing new shares in

The bus industry resembles a large, quarantined, library stocked with species of widely different sizes, a few weeks after the owner stopped feeding them. Small wonder there are now about ten very big fish, and some very much smaller and nervous ones, lurking in the weeds.

FirstBus, but there is no premium. However, according to the small print accompanying the offer, GRT shareholders "can expect an increase in the income derived from their shares of around 95 per cent". In contrast the dividend paid to Badgerline shareholders will remain at a similar level, although the actual level of future dividends will partly reflect the profit performance of FirstBus.

Under the deal, Badgerline shareholders are offered one FirstBus share for every share held, while GRT shareholders are offered 1.9 FirstBus shares for every share held. Badgerline shareholders will hold 63.6 per cent of the enlarged group, with the balance of 36.4 per cent held by GRT shareholders. Currently about

20 per cent of both companies' equity is held by employees. The planned merger lifted Badgerline shares by 5p, to 138p, and GRT's by 13p, to 269p. Badgerline's flotation price, in November 1993, was 115p. GRT's flotation price, in March 1994, was 160p.

Moir Lockhead, GRT chairman and the future chief executive of FirstBus, said that the companies had a good geographic mix, with little overlap. "The merger gives us the benefit of having a national market presence. It brings GRT into the south of England and Wales and allows Badgerline into Scotland."

GRT made an estimated pre-tax profit of £8 million in the year to March 31. Badgerline recorded a £16.7 million profit in the year to December 31. There is a marked difference in operating margins. GRT makes a margin on continuing operations of 14.7 per cent, against Badgerline's 9.5 per cent. Mr Lockhead said: "The key issue is to look for improvements in margins. The target is to lift margins to 14.7 per cent for the group as a whole over the next two years."

FirstBus hopes to do this by applying GRT's tested processes for increasing efficiency coupled with cost advantages from having critical mass in purchasing. FirstBus's combined vehicle, parts and fuel costs total £95 million. Trevor Smallwood, Badgerline chairman and the future FirstBus chairman, said that savings would be made by negotiating with major suppliers centrally. No job losses are on the agenda, he said.

Mr Smallwood said that FirstBus would continue to expand by acquisition. He said that there were plenty of opportunities with 35 per cent of the market not in the hands of the big players. The enlarged group will have gearing of about 190 per cent.

The merger needs shareholder approval. GRT's management own 30 per cent of its equity. At Badgerline, 11 per cent of the shares are in directors' hands.



Moir Lockhead, left, GRT's chairman, and Trevor Smallwood, Badgerline's chairman, yesterday announcing their companies' plans to merge as FirstBus

Shares leap to highest this year

SHARE prices on the London stock market surged to their highest levels so far this year, spurred by a burst of futures-related buying (Michael Clark writes).

The FT-SE 100 index of leading companies closed near its best of the day with a leap of 45 points at 3,188.1, cheered by an opening mark-up on Wall Street which saw the Dow Jones industrial average climb more than 20 points.

Financial markets will be surprised if the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England decide to move base rates as their monthly meeting this morning. Although Monday's money figures showed an acceleration in growth of M0, the narrow measure of money supply, this has been attributed to an exaggeration of seasonal factors before Easter.

A further half-point rise in base rates is expected during coming months, but market analysts think the authorities will stay their hand until the currency turmoil centred on the weak dollar has worked itself out.

Stock market, page 24

MPs criticise regional aid

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A CROSS-PARTY committee of MPs is poised to publish a highly critical report into the Government's regional economic assistance programme.

The report, which will be unveiled as the Government prepares to allocate more than a quarter of its annual regional aid spending to a single project by Jaguar, the carmaker, will call for a review to establish clear priorities, objectives and criteria for state assistance.

Equally damaging, members of the Trade and Industry Select Committee are understood to have concluded that delivery of existing aid is muddled and inefficient.

While backing the case for state assistance to promote economic development and job creation in the regions, the committee's report, out tomorrow, is expected to warn ministers that they are failing to get value for money.

It is likely to demand closer co-ordination between the £398 million of regional aid disbursed by the Department of Trade and Industry, other DTI programmes to promote industrial competitiveness, Environment Department spending and the £1 billion-a-year of European Union regional aid to Britain.

Members of the committee are also believed to have been

particularly concerned by poor collaboration between local enterprise bodies and lack of supervision of the funds entrusted to them.

Lancashire Enterprise, in its evidence to the committee, complained of "widespread duplication and waste of public-sector resources". The agency helped to rescue the Leyland truck plant from receivership.

The British Chambers of Commerce, in its submissions, said the Government had "underperformed" in supporting the regions because its spending was poorly targeted and it took little account of the varying effectiveness of exist-

ing support mechanisms. However, Tim Eggar, the Industry Minister, told the committee that Britain had to offer aid to compete with other countries for investment.

But competition by governments gives companies immense leverage. Ministers are braced for an outcry by other manufacturers when they announce an agreement to give Ford of America £70 million-£80 million in aid to build a new small saloon car plant. The factory, in the West Midlands, is expected to create 10,000 jobs. Last year the company was awarded £9.4 million to develop a new sports car.

Tories urged to scrap 'untrusted' figures on jobs

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S leading statisticians want the Government to abandon its principal measure of unemployment, the Royal Statistical Society says in a report published today that counts the number of benefit claimants produces inconsistent figures that are not trusted by the public.

Instead, the society urges ministers to adopt a separate, internationally recognised measure as the main official way of recording the number of people without work.

The results of a year-long inquiry by the RSS into official unemployment figures have been welcomed by the Government and the Labour Party. Both say the society's findings support their own claims on the issue.

The RSS is largely dismissive of the Government's count of people claiming benefit, on the basis which the Government says that unemployment has fallen by 607,000 since its peak in December 1992 to 2.36 million. The society says the claim-

ant count "is not trusted, is not based on any agreed concept of unemployment, is inconsistent over time due to changes in the claimant system, and cannot be used for international comparisons". It recommends instead reshaping the quarterly Labour Force Survey of 60,000 households as a monthly indicator.

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Employment Secretary, said the RSS's findings vindicated Labour's criticism of official unemployment statistics. However, Philip Oppenheim, the Employment Minister, said the report gave "the lie" to claims that the official figures omitted anything up to two million people. Predictions of a future of "casualised" employment "are not just questionable but demonstrably wrong". Incomes Data Services, the independent analyst, says today, IDS says that talk of an "employment revolution" is misleading.

Lies, damn lies, page 25

Accountancy has its rewards



Certified the best: Robert Bruce with his award yesterday

ROBERT BRUCE, who edits the accountancy section in *The Times* on Thursdays, was named as accountancy journalist of the year by the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants yesterday.

The award was presented by Lord Barnett, the chairman of the adjudication panel. "His Thursday column is essential reading for those in the profession and for anyone outside the profession who wants to understand what the key issues are. The columns always deal with contemporary topics which are then subjected to searching analysis in the light of his considerable experience," he said.

Canary Wharf expansion to go ahead

By CARL MORTIMER AND PATRICIA TEHAN

CANARY WHARF is to begin construction of new buildings at its Docklands complex in London after reaching agreement to let \$10,800 sq ft to BZW, the investment bank subsidiary of Barclays.

Sir Peter Levene, Canary Wharf chairman, said he was having "serious talks" over the remaining space in the development and expected it to be fully let within two years. Canary Wharf is likely to seek pre-

lets with occupiers for two new 170,000 sq ft buildings next to Westferry Circus. Several banking groups are currently searching for space, including ABN Amro and Deutsche Bank, which needs 250,000 sq ft for its investment bank headquarters and has included Canary Wharf on a list of possible locations.

Sir Peter would not reveal the terms of the BZW letting, but insisted it was struck at arm's-length. Rents at Canary Wharf's older buildings are quoted at about £20 per square foot.

but tenants can still obtain rent-free periods and contributions to fitting-out costs. Lower business rates in Docklands can also halve occupation costs compared with the City.

BZW is enticing its 1,950 staff to Canary Wharf in 1996 by promising them an extra £1,000 a year when they move.

A spokesman described the payments as an "inconvenience allowance", and said they would end when the Jubilee line extension to Docklands was operational. He strongly denied reports that BZW was expecting

mass defections. "This is an entirely positive move for the firm and its staff. We are taking concerns and sensitivities into account in all our planning."

Forty per cent of the bonuses of the directors of Barclays Bank, including two directors of BZW, are being made in the form of an allocation of shares to a deferred compensation plan.

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, said yesterday that the payments would be made into a long-term share scheme, replacing a similar deferred compensation plan set up in 1993.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3188.1	(+45.0)
Yield	4.23%	
FT-SE All share	1558.90	(+18.29)
Nikkei	15630.53	(+249.24)
New York		
Dow Jones	4180.86	(+12.25)
S&P Composite	502.80	(+0.75)

LIB RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Long Bond	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
Yield	7.38%	(7.39%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
future (June)	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.8025	(1.8180)
London	1.8005	(1.8179)
DM	2.2104	(2.2190)
FF	7.7510	(7.7780)
SP	1.8174	(1.8168)
Yen	189.21	(188.53)
C Index	84.8	(85.0)

US\$ DOLLAR

London	1.3857	(1.3729)
DM	4.8485	(4.8145)
FF	1.1363	(1.1290)
Yen	85.40	(86.13)
S Index	89.4	(89.1)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant 15-day (Jun)	\$17.26	(\$17.15)
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GOLD

London close	\$381.80	(\$382.45)
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Standard stake sold by Lloyds

LLOYDS Bank has made a profit of £82 million after selling its 4.6 per cent stake in Standard Chartered, at a price of 290p a share. An initial shareholding in the international banking group was acquired in 1986 after an abortive bid for Standard by Lloyds, and was topped up in 1988 by subscribing for a rights issue.

Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds, said he no longer saw an advantage in holding on to the Standard shares as an investment.

Pennington 23, Markets 24

Maime Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

Losing A Senior Secretary Is No Joke!

It's not funny...
...when you have to organise a busy diary...by yourself!

It's not amusing...
...when you miss Clients, because your temp doesn't know who they are!

It's not a laugh...
...to watch your letters tray getting fatter & fatter every day!

And it's certainly no joke...
...when you realise that you've not only lost an excellent team player, but a hardworking colleague, who understood your every move, the way you worked & someone who could truly represent you in your absence.

There is only one Company to send out into the market place to replace a senior Secretary & that's Maime-Tucker. What's more we guarantee every Secretary we find for three months - a 100% refund guarantee for all three months!

We provide top drawer senior Secretaries up & down the country and for companies abroad. There is only one proviso - we will only recruit the best.

Have the last laugh...recruit a senior Secretary through Maime-Tucker!

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300 jobs go as Sweb sells stores

South Western Electricity is selling all 18 of its out-of-town superstores and a licence to operate out of 16 of its high street shops to Norweb, another regional company. The move will cost 300 jobs. Sweb is receiving £4.3 million cash, and more for the stock owned, while retaining the debtors and creditors of the business. The deal will cut borrowings by £27 million but it will take a £20 million provision. *Tempos, page 24*

Boxmore buy

Boxmore, the Belfast packaging group, is buying GCM Print & Packaging for £25 million. Boxmore is raising £19 million in a placing of shares at 260p per share to help finance the deal with the balance from borrowings. Last year Boxmore raised its pre-tax profits from £4.4 million to £7 million. The total dividend for the year is 4.48p. *Tempos, page 24*

Brooks ahead

Brooks Service Group, the textile rental and retail services company, is increasing the total dividend to 2.25p a share, from 1.5p, via a final 1.5p due on May 30. The company reported an increase in 1994 profits to £709,000 before tax, from £323,000.

Stylo issue

Stylo, the footwear group, has proposed a one-for-two bonus issue as it unveils a sharp jump in pre-tax profits, from £2.5 million to £6.5 million in the year to January 28. The dividend is lifted to 7p, from 2.66p, payable on October 2.

CLS in black

Shares in CLS Holdings, floated at 111p last year, were unchanged at 99p after the property investment company reported 1994 profits of £12.2 million before tax, compared with losses of £2.3 million. The final dividend is 2.95p, making 3.35p for the year.

Unity triples

Unity Trust Bank, banker to the trades unions, saw its pre-tax profits triple last year to £552,000 after a significant fall in its bad debt provisions from £2.1 million to £1.8 million.



Nick Lancaster, left, managing director of Malaysia Group, and David Jaggar, finance director, are taken for a spin after the acquisitive motor distribution company said that the HR Owen and Hollingdale luxury dealerships formerly owned by Gerald Ronson's

Heron Group, had performed ahead of expectations since their purchase in November. The company, which has assembled a portfolio of volume and specialist car dealerships since its financial reconstruction in September 1992, yesterday announced a return to

profit in 1994, earning £617,000 before tax, against losses of £378,000 in the previous year. A final dividend of 0.15p makes 0.4p for the year (1993: nil). Earnings per share were 0.6p, against losses of 0.5p. Mr Lancaster said that early trading this year was promising.

House prices fall 1.5% as Halifax piles on gloom

By Robert Miller

HALIFAX, Britain's largest mortgage lender, will today add further to the misery of 10 million people with home loans when it announces that house prices fell by 1.5 per cent in the 12 months to March.

As well as house price gloom, the new tax year starts tomorrow and that means anyone with a mortgage of £30,000 or more, will have to pay an extra £10.45 a month because the value of the mortgage interest tax relief will fall from 20 per cent to 15 per cent.

The Halifax, which has 1.8 million borrowers, says: "There is still no real evidence of any recovery in the housing market emerging, which continues to be constrained by real high interest rates and reduced Government support

for owner-occupation. Though it is too early to change our forecast, a rise of 2-3 per cent in house prices is now looking optimistic." On Monday, Nationwide Building Society's house price index reported no change compared with a year ago.

As well as falling house prices and the lower value of the mortgage interest tax relief, homeowners have also been hit by steadily rising interest rates over the past year. These have already added an extra £9.17 a month to an average £50,000 endowment mortgage since the start of the year and £25 since January 1994. To make matters worse, a cut in the value of the married couples allowance, which also takes effect from tomorrow, will leave most couples £5 worse off a month.

James Barty, senior UK economist at Morgan Grenfell, shares the Halifax's pessimistic view. He said: "The housing market excesses of the 1980s are still working their way through the economic system. Rising mortgage rates, slow income growth and seemingly ever higher taxes are no real incentive for consumers to feel any more confident about the future."

Philip Williamson, a Nationwide director, said: "There is a need to balance carefully the needs of the housing market and the need to manage interest rates to help keep inflation in check." He added further rate rises would threaten any improvement in housing prospects.

Lenders are now engaged in an intensive campaign aimed at persuading the Government to re-think its proposals to cut income support for mortgage interest payments due to come into force this autumn. Adrian Coles, director general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, which represents 98 per cent of the UK's lenders, said: "There is universal agreement among lenders, housing organisations and those concerned with money advice, that these proposals will lead to greater hardship for households in difficulty and will not assist the housing market."

□ Housing starts in the three months to February fell by 8 per cent on a seasonally basis compared with the previous three months. Total completions were down 1.0 per cent on the same basis, according to new data from the Department of the Environment. In the three months to February 39,900 dwellings were started, a fall of 6.0 per cent. Completions, at 44,100, were up 5.0 per cent.

Argyll to close 17 Safeway branches

By Susan Gilchrist

ARGYLL, Britain's third-biggest supermarket group, is to close 17 Safeway stores, with the loss of hundreds of jobs.

Four of the 17 stores are in London with the remainder throughout the country. Argyll hopes to redeploy most of the 1,250 staff who work in the stores, but a spokesman said that some job losses were inevitable. The figure is likely to run into the hundreds.

The group refused to be drawn on the cost of the closures, but analysts believe that it will be between £5 million and £10 million.

Argyll is in the middle of a wide-ranging review aimed at improving the performance of its Safeway business. The spokesman said that, in the light of this review, the 17 stores were no longer viable. The 17, which are older and smaller than the rest of the chain, lack the space to carry the full product range. The average size is just 12,000 sq ft, against an average of about 21,000 sq ft for the Safeway chain as a whole.

Argyll is still opening stores. It has added 21 Safeway outlets to its 380-strong chain this financial year and plans to open 17 next year.

'Cut budgets for single currency'

By Graham Stewart

THE European Monetary Institute, prototype for a European central bank, has issued a warning to member states that they must bring down their budget deficits if the single currency is to get off the ground.

In its first annual report, the institute also lays down guidelines for national governments. It says: "Fiscal consolidation should focus primarily on cutting current public expenditure rather than on further increasing the tax burden of the private sector." Good progress had been made in beating inflation, but far less on other elements in the convergence programme that was supposed to lead to economic and monetary union.

Despite opposition from national central bankers, the EMI sees eco notes and coin replacing national issues. It wants to mint coins of up to two euros (£1.60). Banknotes would start at five, 10 and 20 euros and run up to 500 euros.

Pennington, page 23

United Friendly at a record £47.6m

SHARES in United Friendly rose 22p to 602p yesterday as the life assurance company announced better than expected profits and a rise in the surplus available for dividend growth. The news of a £47 million provision for possible compensation for mis-selling of personal pensions failed to take the shine off the figures. Pre-tax profits rose 83 per cent to a record £47.6 million in 1994. The general insurance operations result improved £15.3 million to a profit of £9.2 million, while life profits leapt 56 per cent to £26.8 million.

The group disclosed that additional analysis had led to an upwards revision of the surplus on the life fund attributable to shareholders from £275 million to £290 million. The final dividend rises from 11p to 13.9p, making a total of 20p, up from 16.5p, with the dividend due on May 30, from earnings per share of 39.3p (21.2p). *Tempos, page 24*

Geest division sold

GEEST, the food group, is selling its wholesale business to management for £4.4 million in cash as part of its strategy of concentrating on its core operations. Geest Wholesale Services made pre-tax profits of £400,000 on sales of £67 million in 1994. Net assets stand at £4.4 million. The management team, which is backed by 3i, will rename the business Francis Nicholls. Geest will incur a goodwill write-back of £3.6 million after the sale, to be charged in the 1995 accounts.

Siebe invests in US

SIEBE, the diversified engineering group, is boosting its presence in the American market by adding LeROI and a 60 per cent stake in Fabex to its diversified products side. LeROI, priced at £20.6 million, is based in Ohio with a further plant in Georgia, and makes screw and reciprocating compressors. The holding in Fabex, which makes tubular automotive parts and fluid assemblies in Michigan, cost £17.2 million. Siebe has a commitment to buy the rest of the group by the year 2000.

Owen's jewellery halt

OWEN & ROBINSON is pulling out of jewellery retailing to concentrate on its sports and leisure chain. The decision follows continued losses at its 55 jewellery stores, which trade under the Gold Centre and Owen & Robinson names. Withdrawing has incurred a £6.5 million exceptional charge. As a result, the group plunged into the red with a pre-tax loss of £8.1 million in the year to January 31, compared with £11,000 profit in the previous period. *Tempos, page 24*

Rea acquires Finsbury

REA BROTHERS GROUP, the merchant banking concern, is acquiring Finsbury Asset Management, lifting the group's funds under management to about £500 million. Rea has agreed to pay an initial consideration of £3.94 million. A further payment of £500,000 depends on the outcome of the launch of a new investment trust this month. Pre-tax profits in 1994 fell to £1.16 million (£2.05 million), but the dividend is lifted 33 per cent, to 1p a share, with a 0.5p final.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

TECH-PRINT LIMITED
In Liquidation. NOTICE is hereby given that the Liquidator, Mr. J. R. Power, of 1, The Quadrant, London, E8 9JY, will hold a creditors' meeting on 14th March 1995 at 2.00 pm.

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NOTICE OF THE COMPANIES

□ Standing room only in the bus stations □ The psychology of cutting deficits □ Dignified and profitable end to a bitter contest

Hold very tight, please

WHEN the National Bus Company was split up into 72 different entities and sold to anyone who showed a mild interest in running a bus company, the overall receipt to the Exchequer was £385 million.

The two biggest operators today, a decade after privatisation and a day after the creation of the second biggest was announced, have a combined market capitalisation of well over £500 million, and behind them trundle a traffic jam of smaller bus businesses — a total of 1,800 at the last count. The comparison is not a fair one, of course. Stagecoach, the biggest, did not arise directly out of the old NBC but was a privately founded company, although a number of the purchases that allowed the company to grow to its current size were NBC buyouts.

Furthermore, the proceeds from NBC should be added those from the 54 municipal companies that are being or have been sold to the private sector, minus the handful that have gone bust since. But the bus industry increasingly resembles a large aquarium, liberally stocked with species of widely different sizes, a few weeks after the owner stopped feeding them. Small wonder, therefore, that about ten very big fish indeed, and some very much smaller and very nervous ones, lurk in the

weeds. When NBC was sold, the resulting bus map of Britain looked like an especially complex paint-by-numbers picture. By now, it has consolidated to a state where the big players are, in some regions, hemming each other in, and further expansion across the existing boundaries looks difficult. Some operators are talking about being allowed to swap territories or do management deals whereby some of the more inconvenient geographical anomalies could be set aside.

The industry has been plagued with several dozen Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiries, mostly of a highly regional nature. In almost every case, the deal has been allowed through once notice has been taken of local sensibilities. The complaint has often been of predatory pricing, with one big fish sending a smaller one to its death by deliberately running a parallel but unprofitable service. Once the victim has expired, the victor naturally has every reason to comply with undertakings given to the MMC and raise prices again.

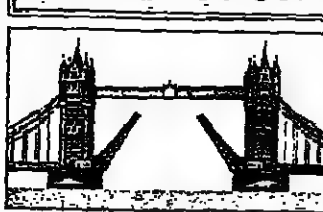
At the time of the original NBC

sell-off, the Department of Transport said the main aim was to promote competition between the original 72 separate entities while encouraging management buyouts — and by implication, not worry too much about the price being offered. This has an eerie resonance with similar pronouncements on the future of the railways, where up to 100 separate operators are being envisaged — and again, the actual receipts to the Treasury are not overwhelming. Little surprise, therefore, that several of the coach and bus operators are now eyeing British Rail franchises.

Taxing advice from Frankfurt

ALEXANDRE LAMFALUSSY, president of the European Monetary Institute, has assembled a team including psychologists and historians to help to design the proposed new euro banknotes that would herald economic and monetary union. Their debates on the niceties of political correctness vital for the new money need not

PENNINGTON



be unduly hurried. As the institute's first annual report shows, most members of the European Union are further from meeting the convergence tests for economic and monetary union than they were when the tests were drawn up.

Inflation may be coming down nicely, but fiscal deficits widened during the recession. In 1994, the Union's 12 members averaged a deficit of 5.6 per cent of gross domestic product. Discounting cyclical factors, this comes down to 4.9 per cent, but the ceiling for any country to join the single currency is 3 per cent. Even European Commission forecasts see the average falling only as far as 3.9 per cent in 1996. By the end of 1994, the ratio of gross public

debt to national income across the union had swelled to 69 per cent, against the 60 per cent Maastricht ceiling for individual countries. On the Commission forecasts, it will rise to 73 per cent in 1996.

If M. Lamfalussy is to make much headway in persuading governments to slash national structural deficits, he will need all the help he can get from those psychologists. Deficits will fall naturally as recovery matures but something near 3 per cent after several years of recovery implies that the limit will swiftly be bust, come the next downturn.

Having survived recession, however, governments will be more interested in winning elections than in pressing on with more fiscal consolidation. The British Government's Red Book, for instance, projects its fiscal deficit reaching zero only in 1998-99, the next likely economic peak, when the Exchequer should be running a strong surplus. Instead, £10 billion plus tax cuts are being touted. But those crying loudest for cuts would not want Britain to meet the tests for a single currency in 1999. Nor

would they wish to bow to the fiscal and political dictates already emanating, however politely, from Frankfurt.

Lloyds lowers the Standard

LLOYDS BANK'S sale of its stake in Standard Chartered closes one of the bitterest contests the banking industry has ever seen. The assault on Standard, nine years ago to the day, was resisted so fiercely that Standard almost destroyed itself in the process. The offer of an over-generous dividend to keep shareholders loyal forced it to expand its loan book too rapidly to generate the necessary income. When the recession came, so did the inevitable disaster.

The timing of the disposal is no accident. As the bank's wedding to the Cheltenham & Gloucester is blessed, so its future is sealed. Lloyds is now a domestic banking and insurance group, its international operations have withered and any renewed attempt to take over Standard would be so irrelevant to the

business that not even Sir Brian Pitman, the chief executive, could argue a case for it.

Lloyds probably only held on for so long out of sheer cussedness and an instinct for keeping its options open. Until now, the bank did not need the cash that the stake consumed, and until recently it was sitting on a substantial loss. In January 1991, the shares traded at a quarter of what Lloyds paid, leaving it nursing a painful loss. By sitting and waiting, Lloyds has at least been able to exit with dignity and an £82 million profit.

Admittedly, that is not much, considering how long Lloyds has had its capital tied up in such a low-yielding investment. The cash released is being recycled into the C&G takeover, which should earn a return far closer to Sir Brian's targets.

Wet ruling

JOHN GUMMER's decision to charge for water on the basis of obsolete rateable values next century, rather than switch to council tax banding, is short-sighted and cynical. Ministers and Ofwat love meters, the market solution, which are often too costly and will never be universal. The obsolete method will therefore remain permanent, to avoid losers from change, until a better Minister acts.

Pilkington ends legal dispute at cost of £31m

By Neil Bennett

PILKINGTON, the glass manufacturer, has suffered a £31 million knock to its profits after settling a 12-year legal dispute with PPG Industries of America, which has cost the two companies up to £70 million.

The company announced yesterday that it has reached a full and final settlement of the dispute that had involved dozens of lawyers in Britain and America and generated tons of paperwork.

The dispute arose over the licensing of Pilkington's proprietary float glass manufacturing processes. The company originally claimed that PPG, formerly Pittsburgh Plate Glass, had used Pilkington's technology in parts of the world where it had not been licensed.

In 1992, Pilkington was awarded £21 million to cover its costs after a long-running arbitration case in Britain. But then PPG launched a series of court actions in the US. Last year, these cost Pilkington £8 million in costs, and the company had been expecting to pay out another £10 million this year. PPG's costs in the actions were even higher.

The two sides have agreed to end the dispute, since the licences over the disputed technology expire next year. Both have agreed that neither is guilty of anything and have divided the costs evenly. As a

result, Pilkington is repaying the money it was awarded in Britain which, together with interest, amounts to £31 million.

The payment will be taken as an exceptional charge in Pilkington's figures for the year to March 31 just ended. Previously, City analysts had been expecting the group to report a profit of about £140 million.

The payment will also push Pilkington's debts back up after three years in which the group has struggled to bring them down.

Andrew Robb, Pilkington's finance director, welcomed the settlement yesterday. He said the agreement protected all Pilkington's other licences, which have generated revenues of £230 million in the last ten years.

The settlement also protects Pilkington's technology licences signed after 1982, for which international companies are still signing up. Last year Pilkington signed seven new licences.

If the court actions had gone against Pilkington, the group was concerned that other glass manufacturers would renege on their licensing agreements and stop paying royalties.

Mr Robb said that the group still had ongoing legal actions in other parts of the world, but none of them match the scale of its row with PPG.

GEC seeks defence costs spread

By Ross Tremain

GEC, Britain's second-biggest defence company, is calling for a new arms procurement policy under which government departments which benefit from decisions to buy British equipment would share any extra costs incurred by the Ministry of Defence.

In evidence to a joint inquiry by the Defence and Trade and Industry Select Committees, GEC said such a strategy is needed to help Britain retain and develop key defence technologies, and to slow job losses in Britain's biggest manufacturing sector.

The electronics group added that "offset" promises to provide compensating work for British firms, often used to justify buying weapons overseas, were worthless. "There is scant evidence of any offset programme delivering real benefit," it said.

Advocating a new procurement regime, committed to retaining capacity in stated key technologies, GEC called for a formal assessment of the impact on the UK economy of all large procurement decisions.

GEC said the MoD should copy French policy and form a "partnership" with its customers, based upon common goals of cost-effectiveness and capability.

Vymura boosted by exports

By Susan Gilchrist

STRONG growth in exports and tight control of costs helped Vymura to lift profits by 15 per cent last year.

The wallcoverings manufacturer, which came to market last May, increased pre-tax profits to £3.8 million (£3.3 million) in 1994. Earnings per share grew to 10.70p (10.34p).

The UK market's overall sales fell 1 per cent, but Vymura raised UK sales by 4 per cent, with strong gains in the DIY sector offsetting a fall in sales to high-street retailers. The group's sales to DIY superstores rose 10 per cent, making it the largest wallcoverings supplier to the sector.

Tom Small, Vymura's chief executive, said that action was being taken to improve sales to high street retailers, and predicted that these would increase in the current year.

Export sales rose 26 per cent, to account for just under a fifth of group turnover.

Mr Small said that raw material price increases were likely on top of rises of between 5 per cent and 10 per cent seen last year. The group had absorbed the pressure, so far, by raising selling prices and reducing its cost base.

A 3.1p maiden final dividend, 5 per cent up on 1993's notional payout, is due on June 21.

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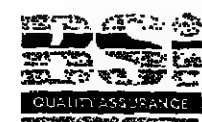
Telephone _____

Extension _____

Fax _____

Nature of business _____

Approximate number of employees _____



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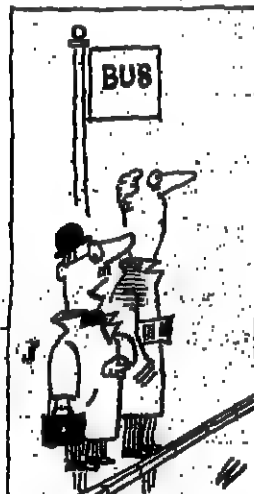
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Wise old head at the wheel

THE debate about non-executive directors and their "little jobs" rages on. But for length of service, can there be a rival to the eminent lawyer Lord Shawcross, who turned 93 on February 4? It was only last summer that he stepped down as deputy chairman of Cadbury, the motor group, a board he first joined 29 years earlier. Robert Calfin said yesterday: "Lord Shawcross always gave valuable advice, and always came to board meetings. And at 90, I found him to be more alive and alert than many people at 50."

Young aspirant

AT THE other end of the corporate lifeline, I have found a chairman who is only 11½ years old. In 1971, Barry Houghton set up his Rainford Group, which makes base stations for mobile networks, using £1500 from the sale of his house. Now, SG Warburg is bringing Rainford to market, with impact set on April 7 and has signs set on raising £20 million. Barry was born in 1948 — but on February 29. So he can be 47 — or nearly a teenager.



"You wait for ages, then the mergers come along all together."

Silly numbers

I AM left to wonder whether statisticians can count after yesterday's release from the CSO of the new code of practice. Page 16 of the glossy 24-page booklet is headed "maintaining confidentiality" and is followed by two blank pages. They in turn are followed by... page 17, or should that be page 18, which is headed "Developing Professional and Managerial Competence." John Major says in introducing the code that it "makes an important contribution to achieving high standards in our official statistics." Quite so.

Lehman scoops

FIRST Lehman Brothers scooped up Sir Paul Newall, a former Lord Mayor of London. Then it takes on board former US Ambassador Raymond Seitz. Now, Lehman Brothers Japan has appointed respected banker Kiyoshi Tsugawa, until last month chairman of SG Warburg (Japan), and prior to that 30 years with the Bank of Tokyo, as its new chairman and branch manager in Japan.

Oriana stir

JON DEAN, general manager of Lockhart, the catering equipment suppliers, was delighted to supply P&O with a £250,000 order for the new luxury liner Oriana, but surprised to see on the list of 17,000 products a request for "two large paddles." On inquiry, Dean was told they were required "for stirring large vats of soup."

BY SUNSET today, Wednesday, I expect the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, all 107,000 of them, and the 40,000 strong Chartered Institute of Management Accountants to have announced their merger.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Lies, damn lies — and all those jobless figures

A new study shows the way out of Britain's maze of conflicting statistics, says Philip Bassett

How many people are unemployed in Britain today — 2.4 million, 2.5 million, 3.5 million, 4 million, 5 million? All these figures have their passionate proponents, which demonstrates two points: that the British labour market is a highly complex animal; and that unemployment and politics are inextricably intertwined.

The popular impression of unemployment figures is unquestionably that they are "fiddled" — which is why today's report from the authoritative, independent Royal Statistical Society on the measurement of unemployment is important. It tries to shed light, rather than heat, on what all sides agree is a highly vexed issue.

John Major wants Government statistics to be believed. In the Statistical Society's new code of practice published this week, he made his position clear. "It is essential for open government," the Prime Minister said, "that the integrity of, and public confidence in, official statistics is maintained."

But in its year-long study — the conclusions of which were first reported in *The Times* two months ago — the RSS was equally clear that unemployment figures did not meet Mr Major's standard. "The general public, many politicians, the media and various pressure groups do not trust the unemployment figures or find them convincing," the society said.

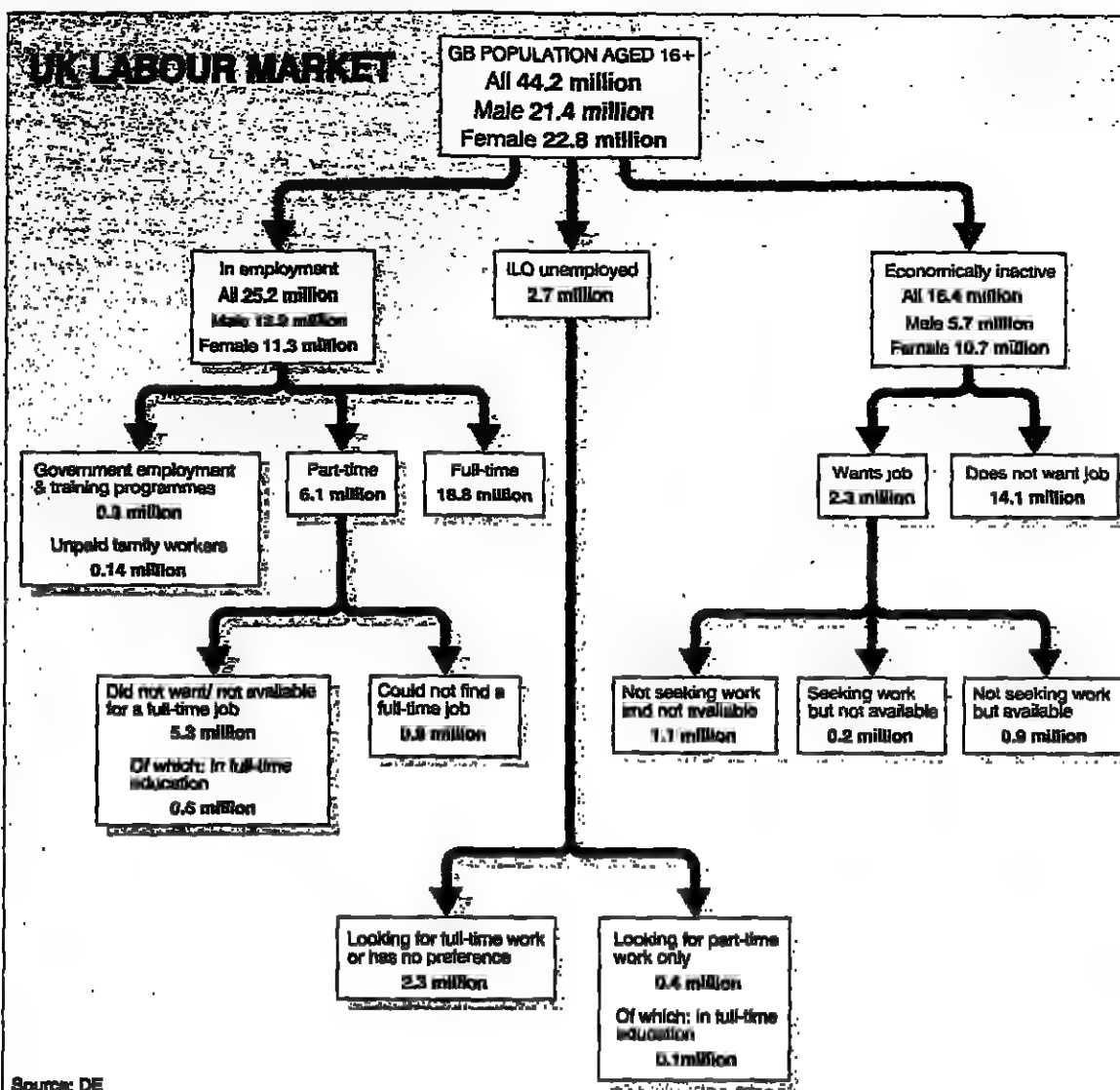
Arguing for a "battery" of indicators to reflect the complexities of the labour market, the RSS says that the decision as to what counts as "unemployment" is a political, not a statistical, question.

The society's inquiry, carried out by distinguished senior statisticians consulting widely with the Department of Employment, the Treasury, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the Trades Union Congress, stems from a political argument raised by John Prescott when he was Shadow Employment Secretary.

At the core of the debate lie two interlinked questions: what constitutes unemployment, and how it is best measured? As well as the employed, the unemployed and those not available for work, the RSS looked at such categories as the "under-employed" and "over-employed", but concluded that there was no single answer to the question: how many people in Britain are unemployed?

This may seem like lame evasion, but it is mainly a reflection of the sheer complexity of the labour market. Those who claim that the "real" figures for unemployment are much higher than the official totals mostly draw in groups from economically inactive categories and total them up.

The RSS is uneasy about the idea of a single headline figure at all, though it accepts the demand for one — which, it concludes, must reflect the political phenomenon of unemployment as well



Source: DE

as its economic, market and social aspects.

The headline figure, it suggests, "serves as a general-purpose measure of some aspect of the performance of Government, to which the electorate are entitled in order to inform their voting decisions." Indeed this, it says, is the only justification for the continued production of a monthly tot-up of unemployment.

Government statisticians and ministers closely connected with unemployment insist that the monthly headline figure, seasonally adjusted or not, is no more than a count of the number of people out of work and claiming a claimant count (CC), not a full measure of unemployment.

Despite such disclaimers, it is the CC to which ministers refer when they make claims of economic recovery; the monthly CC also lay behind Mr Major's proclamation in *Panorama* this week that 1,000 people are coming off the dole queues every day.

The CC, a version of which is used in every key industrialised country except Japan, is a by-product of the administrative process of paying benefits. For that reason the Government will never abandon it. Like any business, the Government needs to keep close track of its outgoings.

The issue now is whether this administrative measure should continue to be used as the main indicator of unemployment in Britain. Something like the CC has been running since the

days when unemployment was measured by trade union records, and after 1911, National Insurance benefits.

The CC is cheap, it is quick, it can be broken down into very small local areas — right down to parliamentary ward level — and, like elections versus opinion polls, it has the great advantage for a statistic of counting real people, not a sample survey.

However, because of political decisions about its coverage, it is vulnerable to change when the welfare system changes. CC coverage has been altered 31 times since the Conservative Party came to power in 1979, though ministers insist that only nine of those changes were genuinely significant in terms of a discernible effect on the count. Such changes have none the less contributed to the public's distrust of the headline statistic.

The measure RSS statisticians prefer is a sample-based count drawn from the Government's Labour Force Survey. Originally published biannually, the LFS is a survey of a sample of 60,000 households — has gradually gained authority, moving first to annual and then to quarterly production. Privately, most statisticians in Whitehall also now prefer it.

The LFS's unemployment figures are based on methods recommended by the UN's International Labour Organisation, and as such are known as "ILO unemployment." In Britain, CC and ILO unemployment have in the past

diverged markedly, to the consternation and confusion of politicians, the press and the public — though at the moment they are closely in line. Statisticians prefer the LFS because it is both consistent and independent. But it is expensive: currently being market-tested, its annual cost is up to £5 million.

The RSS has formed three principal proposals after its study: that the CC should cease to be used as the monthly headline figure for unemployment (but should be retained as a simple count of the proportion of the unemployed who are receiving benefit); that the LFS should be redesigned and carried out monthly; and that the ILO unemployment count drawn from a monthly LFS should be Britain's main measure of the jobless.

Ministers reply that the cost is too great. The society admits that, at two or three times the price of the quarterly LFS, costs would be "non-trivial." Whitehall officials calculate it would add an extra £10 million to the LFS's costs, and at a time of tight public spending, Philip Oppenheim, the Employment Minister, suggests that going to the Treasury with such a proposal would see it "laughed out of court."

That may well be true, but an eventual shift to monthly LFS production seems logical, and it is likely that a future Labour government led by Tony Blair would, as Shadow Employment Secretary Harriet Harman put it, "want to tell the truth about unemployment — unlike this Government."



ANTHONY HARRIS

Debt: the good, the bad and the impossible

Worries about deficits, debts and debt traps, which virtually faded from the markets during the world recession, have reappeared in some force since the Mexican crisis. But they remain ill-focused.

There is a general retreat from the emerging markets, often quite unjustified, while apparent basket cases such as Belgium get off very lightly.

This week, however, Roger Bootle, of HSBC Markets (still rather more recognisable as Greenwells), has come out with a systematic guide to the true symptoms of danger. They are applied common sense, but still not as simple as some analysts (notably the drafters of the Maastricht treaty) seem to suppose.

He starts from a thought I first heard some 20 years ago from a Fed governor. The American problem, said the then received wisdom (which is still in circulation), was inadequate private saving; but the governor would not have it.

"What do you mean by this statement?" he demanded. "That Americans do not pay their bills? That they leave nothing to their children? Neither of these statements is true. And if not, what do you mean?" No answer, and that led on to the thought that apart from the stupid and the plain dishonest, who are always with us, and from speculative follies, which central banks ought to nip in the bud, private agents never do borrow too much or save too little. They simply use finance. It is governments that cause the trouble, when they fail to trim their policies to national habits.

At its simplest, this is an American version of the old Kaldor equation, which said that only governments are responsible for balance of payments deficits, which reflect inadequate saving at the national level. This is essentially the Maastricht philosophy, which seeks to limit fiscal deficits to 3 per cent of GDP. Its weakness is the one-size-fits-all approach: where private saving is high, as in Italy, the balance of payments may be in surplus (which is saving

at the national level) despite very large fiscal deficits.

Is the current account rather than the fiscal balance the test, then? This can be misleading, as Bootle points out, and as Britain discovered in the late 1970s. The North Sea oilfields were being developed, and as foreign-owned drilling rigs arrived, the current account showed a large deficit. This was regarded at the time as confirmation of original British sin, but was in fact a promise of the large swing into surplus that appeared as soon as the wells were producing. Some emerging economies also combine deficits with high investment and fast export growth; a current account deficit that reflects inflows of truly productive capital is natural and indeed encouraging.

A reliable test, then, would be based on the current account, supplemented by judgment (as the Treasury used to say of its own forecasts). But Bootle imposes another test: sustainability. This is the debt trap test. Where the stock of national debt is large (approaching or exceeding a year's GDP), and the real interest rate is above the real growth rate, the debt problem will become unmanageable simply because of compound interest. This is why Italy, thrifty, productive and in current surplus, is in crisis: its citizens can work out that official debt is unsustainable, so they will not buy it. This collapse of domestic confidence, by the way, is the usual cause of Latin American crises.

Applying all these tests, Bootle comes up with a slightly unfamiliar list of danger spots: Mexico, Brazil and possibly the Philippines among the emerging economies, but Italy, Belgium, Sweden, Spain and Canada in the developed world. And he suggests that a balanced budget is too modest a target for the US: it may need a permanent fiscal surplus to attain national balance. And Britain? Sound by all tests at the moment, which ought to make gills look a bargain. Are the markets running scared of the coming tax cut auction?

Eric Reguly says viewers are underwhelmed

TV couch potatoes pull plug on video-on-demand service

Speakers at a cable television conference held in London recently got themselves all fired up about video-on-demand, which gives couch potatoes the luxury of seeing what they want when they want. It was being billed as the next great step forward in the multimedia revolution.

But is it? Although video-on-demand exists in experimental form, many of the tests have not been runaway successes. Some, indeed, have been outright failures, prompting the cable and telephone companies that are vying to provide the services to scale back their ambitions.

A recent video-on-demand trial in Rochester, New York, is a case in point. Frontier Corporation, a telecommunications company, placed small computers on top of television sets in a few dozen apartments. A high-capacity cable linked the computers to a central computer, which piped the movie of their choice into the subscribers' living rooms.

However, the subscribers were underwhelmed by the experiment. Some, to Frontier's amazement, continued to trundle to the local Blockbuster to hire the same videos that they could have obtained at home. Frontier pulled the plug.

Other experiments, including projects by Pacific Bell in California and AT&T and GTE in Massachusetts, were killed off before they even started. Others have been confined to employees of the companies running the test. It is fair to assume that few of them told the boss that his



BT aims to create a big-screen, digital version of the Internet

video-on-demand service was more trouble than it was worth.

There is no doubt now that pay-per-view, a distinctly non-interactive service that allows viewers to pay for a particular programme, such as a world-title boxing match, not video-on-demand, will be the next rage in home entertainment. Philippe Galteau, managing director of General Cable, a British cable company that is exploring new multimedia services, said: "Video-on-demand will probably be one of the last services to happen because it will cost amounts which are hard to believe now."

Fans of video-on-demand

(VOD) seem to be misjudging human nature. Many people simply want to be entertained passively when they get home from work: selecting a movie by punching buttons on a set-top box involves effort. Furthermore, even if they do like video-on-demand, they do not want to pay a premium for it. John Malone, head of TCI, America's largest cable company, said: "Customers prefer VOD, but, in our tests, they didn't spend any more money on it."

John Foley, commercial director of Convergent Decisions Group, a broadcasting research boutique in London, concedes that video-on-demand is off to a slow start, but is

convinced that it is destined to become part of everyday life. Mr Foley thinks that video-on-demand will take off when it is capable of offering more than box-office hits. "You need more than videos; you need a portfolio of services," he said.

Other services would include home shopping and banking, a list of public services and news on demand. The latter would allow you to watch a repeat of the *News at Ten* when you get home from the opera at midnight.

British Telecom's forthcoming video-on-demand trial, involving 2,500 homes in Ipswich and Colchester, has been planned along the all-things-to-all-people theme. "We don't believe having movies is enough to pay for the service," said Paul Sharma, a BT spokesman. "You need other services as well."

In effect, what BT and other companies on the multimedia bandwagon want to do is create a big-screen, digital version of the Internet. Personal computers are fine for trawling databanks and sending electronic mail, but they lack the visual thrill. Watching a movie, playing a Sega game, or even shopping, might be much more fun on a 27-in. high-resolution screen than on a PC.

Video-on-demand, if it is limited to movies, already appears to be a non-starter, another wreck on the information superhighway. If, however, families take to a broader-based service in the way that they are taking to the Internet, it may stand a chance.

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- PERIODONTAL THERAPY**
- RADIOLOGY**
- TELEPHONIC SERVICE**
- DENTALS**

Strong gains across the board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	Barclays	119.50	+0.50	12.5
118.00	117.00	HSBC	117.50	+0.50	11.5
116.00	115.00	London City	115.50	+0.50	10.5
114.00	113.00	Midland	113.50	+0.50	9.5
112.00	111.00	NatWest	111.50	+0.50	8.5
110.00	109.00	Paragon	109.50	+0.50	7.5
108.00	107.00	Prudential	107.50	+0.50	6.5
106.00	105.00	Royal Bank	105.50	+0.50	5.5
104.00	103.00	Santander	103.50	+0.50	4.5
102.00	101.00	TSB	101.50	+0.50	3.5

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

BUSINESS SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
104.00	103.00	Next	103.50	+0.50	9.5
102.00	101.00	Primark	101.50	+0.50	8.5
100.00	99.00	Primor	99.50	+0.50	7.5
98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

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High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
110.00	109.00	Asda	109.50	+0.50	12.5
108.00	107.00	Debenhams	107.50	+0.50	11.5
106.00	105.00	John Lewis	105.50	+0.50	10.5
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98.00	97.00	Primor	97.50	+0.50	6.5
96.00	95.00	Primor	95.50	+0.50	5.5
94.00	93.00	Primor	93.50	+0.50	4.5
92.00	91.00	Primor	91.50	+0.50	3.5

BRITISH FUNDS

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	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Take-off for Heathrow plan

The area west of the airport is one of the UK's most important property markets. Christopher Warman on a new scheme

The lack of speculative office building suggests little faith in the commercial property market. So the announcement of a new speculative building at Heathrow is a sign that confidence is returning.

The Stockley Park Consortium has applied for planning permission for a 100,000 sq ft building designed by Arup Associates, which, if consent is given, should be completed by late spring 1996.

The announcement coincides with a claim that the west side of London, dominated by Heathrow, is one of the most important property markets in Britain outside central London.

Mr McIntosh said that, at £10 a sq ft, the Heathrow property market had the highest industrial rents in Great Britain, and that the area did not suffer from the same oversupply problems seen in many other UK locations.

Outside central London, Heath-

row is one of the areas with the highest office rental levels in the UK. Since 1992, top office rents near Heathrow, he said, have had 5 per cent growth, compared with a fall of about 20 per cent generally across the country.

Demand is strong because the Heathrow office market has its lowest level of completed developments for five years: less than 200,000 sq ft of new space is available. The total available space has fallen by half, from 1 million sq ft in 1991 to 500,000 sq ft in 1994.

Heathrow's importance can also be seen by the fact that the wider area appeals to a broad market sector because of its location in the prime M4-M25 belt. Easy access to central London and the airport is a requirement of many multinational organisations.

Stockley Park, a leading business park and used as a blueprint by many developers throughout Europe, is being developed by a consortium of Kajima, whose acquisition of Stanhope Properties share gives it a 58 per cent stake. Prudential (25 per cent) and Chelsfield (17 per cent).

Since its formation in 1988 the consortium has completed 1.5 million sq ft of development, and has a further 90 acres of developable land on which planning consent for



Andrew Vander Meersch with a model of the consortium's scheme

550,000 sq ft of commercial office space is already secured.

This latest project, which launches phase two of the park's development, is in response to a rising demand for commercial office space in the west London-Thames Valley market. It is designed in a cruciform shape, and ideally is intended for a single occupier as a headquarters building.

The building, 3 The Square,

stands within a glass "envelope", which allows its windows to be opened and maximises the amount of natural light. Andrew Vander Meersch, the consortium chief executive, said the architects had provided an exciting architectural building "while responding to clear occupier demands for high efficiency and environmentally friendly buildings with lower occupational costs".

For today's urban managers, partnership is the key

The need for involvement between government, and its agencies, and developers in the "risk-averse" commercial environment in which they operate is a main theme of Cities '95, a two-day exhibition and conference on issues affecting urban management. Christopher Warman writes.

The event, to be held in Manchester on May 23 and 24, brings together consultants, developers, local authorities and regeneration organisations, and is supported by the Department of the Environment, British Urban Regeneration Association and Civic Trust.

The organisers point out that the main area of activity for fresh initiatives — such as City Challenge, the Public Finance Initiative and the last wave of urban development corporations — has been in urban areas. Though they consume a lesser proportion of overall government grant, they are still a government priority. In the field of property development, marginal or speculative schemes have increasingly been appraised in the context of government initiatives. The latter allow an element of comfort to entrepreneurial developers and investors, but nevertheless seek to transfer risks from the public sector, which they have traditionally been reluctant to absorb.

At the beginning of this century, 5 per cent of the world's population lived in cities. Today, that figure is estimated to be 42 per cent, and by 2020 will have increased to 52 per cent. It was the growing recognition of the impact of cities, combined with the more proactive role being encouraged by the Government and implemented by city



The Government has promoted fresh development in Plymouth

A blueprint for cities of the future

managers throughout the UK that encouraged Jeremy Sale and Nick Clarworthy to establish Cities. Now in its third year, it acts both as a marketplace and as a clearing house for ideas.

The concept of partnership, promoted by the Government and by developers such as Godfrey Bradman in the 1980s, is likely to grow to fruition in the more cautious and less aggressive marketplace in which developers now conduct their transactions. Today's climate is one in which the planning policies of the 1980s are being reversed by the Government, with John Gummer, Secretary of

State for the Environment, giving greater emphasis to in-town opportunities and the apparatus required to provide developers with the necessary comfort to manage and balance risk.

One result of the Government's Public Finance Initiative, for example, has been to open up opportunities for the former defence lands in Plymouth now controlled by Plymouth Development Corporation. The latter's ability effectively to partner the developer has yielded many inquiries, and this model is seen very much as a blueprint for future forms of urban development in Britain and on the Continent.

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FESTIVALS page 31

The second part of our summer guide: today, the finest cultural feasts on mainland Europe

ARTS

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale enjoys a powerful new social drama. Plus an Easter puzzler

In the name of the father

One Fine Day
Albery

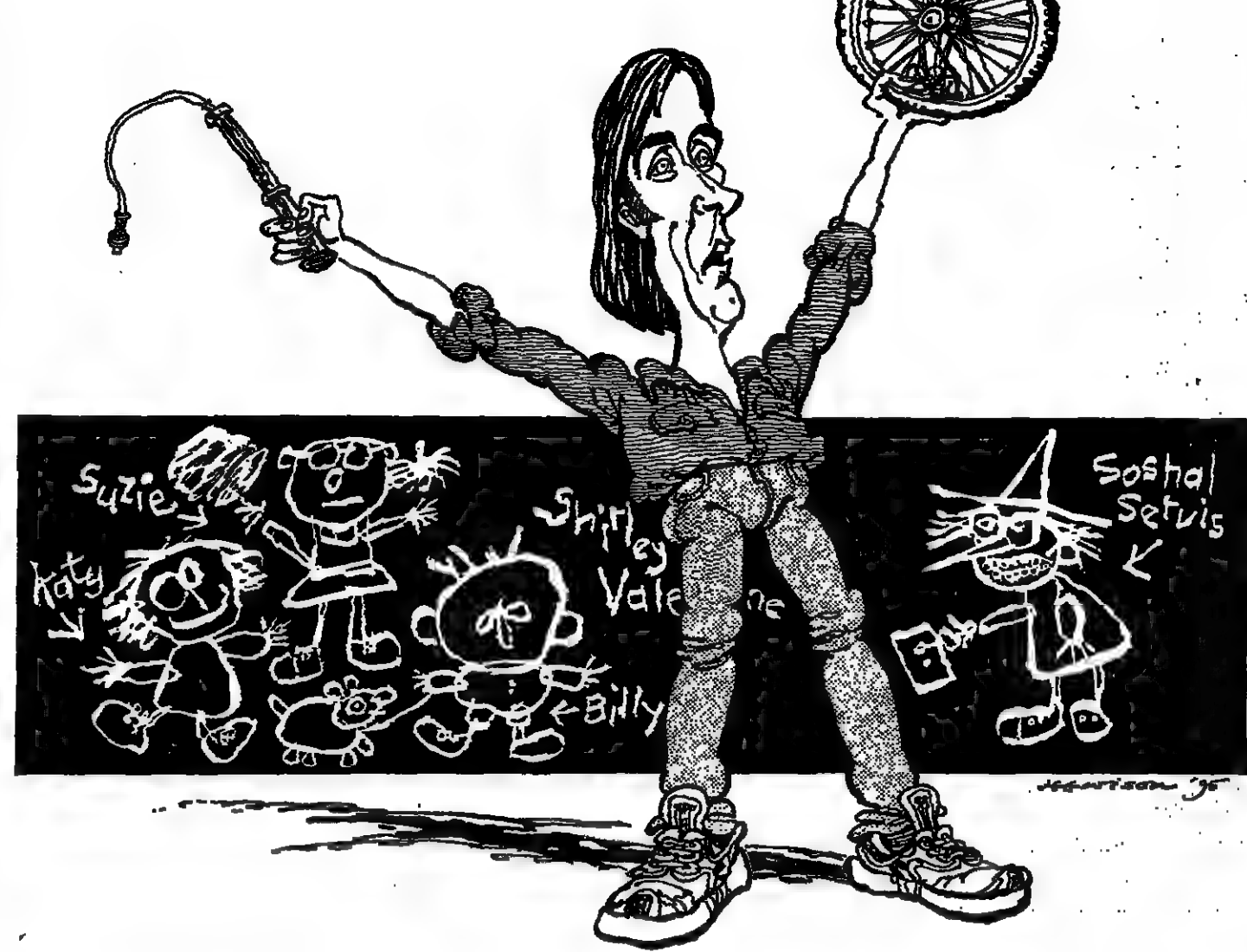
The settings give this re-winding piece its emotional shape. The first is a cosy kitchen on a spruce blue-collar estate in Liverpool: pine furniture, washing machine, melon and strawberry magnets on the fridge door. The second is a gritty bedsit perched over an invisible busy shop. The third is a white police cell stripped of everything but a loo and a lot of forlorn graffiti, and the fourth brings us full circle back to a kitchen that somehow contrives to look sadder than when we first saw it. Since this is a one-man play, written by Dennis Lumborg and performed by Joe McGann, you will gather that the protagonist's dramatic journey has its potholes.

Not that you would guess so from the first half-hour. Looking like some friendly neighbourhood bloodhound, McGann's Eddie wanders about talking of his wife, the children he adores, and his boyhood. He remembers how he embarrassed his mum by clapping in unison with two dogs who were playing a curiously rhythmic game of piggyback, and how he determined he would be open and natural about the facts of life with his own kids. There are comely references to *Blue Peter*. You begin to wonder if, for all his waggish humour, he isn't an excessively soft, sentimental fellow.

Even if the collapse of *Cell Mates* meant that the Albery was unexpectedly dark, what had made the impresario Bill Kenwright so keen to hurry this amusing but low-powered piece down from Liverpool Playhouse? The answer to the question that must have been forming in every mind came with one twist of Julie Godfrey's set. Suddenly Eddie, jolly father and family man, is alone and, though the doll jokes continue, very worried indeed. He has had a call from the social services, and his secure little world is in tatters.

Since this is one of those satisfactory surprises which genuinely shock, yet in retrospect seem logical and predictable, I am almost inclined to halt this review right here. You might do better to go and see the estimable McGann ruefully coping with disaster than read on. Certainly, I can no longer conceal that the play treats a fashionable theme in what is, however, a far from modish manner. Recall what happened in the Orkneys, Cleveland and elsewhere? The subject is child abuse or, rather, the accusation of it.

Eddie's daughter, who has stumbled on her parents' lovemaking, cheerfully recounts the experience



Joe McGann takes single-handed honours as the doomed father in Dennis Lumborg's dark tale. Illustration by Bill Hewison

in a school playground that gradually fills with children, dinner ladies and the headmaster. The girl is referred to the social services. Inconclusive but vaguely troubling examinations occur. Eddie punches what he regards as a dirty-minded interviewer. He sees doubt in his wife's eyes. He slams out of the happy home and proceeds to behave in a self-destructive way.

Maybe there is a weakness in the play here. A bright, articulate working man, which is what Eddie is, would surely get himself a lawyer. Instead, he grabs his children from the school forecourt, inadvertently managing to acquire a friend of his daughter's in the process, and takes them paddling in the buff at the seaside. Arrested and quizzed by a killer-cop, he takes revenge in the way he thinks will most upset his persecutor, by

kissing him on the ear. It is not wholly plausible, but it allows Lumborg to make his point. In our determination to eradicate abuse, we risk misinterpreting love, befouling innocence and anathematizing good people.

The play could go deeper. It might even leave a doubt in our minds about Eddie's deeper motives, the erotic lines in these cases being subtle and elusive. As it is, the impression is sometimes of David Mamet's political-correctness play, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, as it might have been rewritten by John Godber. But that would be to overlook Lumborg's narrative energy, his skill with dramatic speech, his unpretentious humanity and his ability to sustain humour without trivialising a dark subject. An admirable and, by the end, engrossing evening.

After Easter
Barbican Pit

Greta, sweet-natured but turned inside-out by religious visions, is the central character of Anne Devlin's puzzling play. Its content bewildered Benedict Nightingale at the Stratford premiere last May, and leaves me no less baffled.

Greta is born into an Ulster Catholic family at war with itself, where the father is a communist fisherman and the mother sells communion dresses to the needy. Greta imagines she has escaped her poisoned heritage by marrying an Englishman but since he is a Marxist, she is evidently still firmly nailed to the family tree.

Another sister has also exiled herself to England. A third sister

has stayed at home and is raising five children in the faith, but an ill-prepared development shows her turning against her mother in the family row around the father's coffin. Her brother is gay but nothing is made of this.

The play appears to be saying that an Ulster Catholic woman must attend to her roots before new growth will flourish. But the way the play is written never persuaded me that the principal characters had much reality. The movement between anguished tension and quiet grace in Stella Gomers Greta is attractive to watch, but it is a pity she has to report so many of her shattering experiences in lengthy and rhapsodic speeches. The director, Michael Attenborough, should have asked for a rewrite.

JEREMY KINGSTON

TOMORROW

Why starring in *Dumb* and *Dumber* was an exceedingly smart move for Jeff Daniels

CONCERTS: Reviewed by Hilary Finch

Tempted by the sunlight

HARD on the heels of their colleagues across the polders, the Rotterdam Philharmonic arrived at the South Bank at the start of their tour of the UK and Ireland a week after the Royal Concertgebouw had appeared at the Barbican.

They are by no means the B-team. Their Shostakovich Tenth Symphony may not have had the compelling inner momentum which their own principal conductor, Valery Gergiev, would surely have brought to it, but their well-groomed, supple body of strings is nicely complemented by characterful and highly accomplished woodwind and brass soloists, who came into their own in this symphony.

At times they seemed a little pinioned by Claus Peter Flor's often stumpy and steady beat. A touch more unseemly, mocking swagger would have sharpened the contrast of their serendipitous in the third movement, and an even more acutely open to their own keening songs would have perhaps given the outer movements

as a whole, deeper, broader breath. The orchestra seemed a superbly working instrument which never quite dared to go into overdrive.

Andreas Haefliger was the soloist in Mozart's A Major Piano Concerto K488, and he took a dark view of the work. The downward pull of melody and harmony dominated in an opening movement restrained in its energy. Haefliger's clarity of articulation and of vision carved deep tragedy out of a truly slow movement which, for once, was not impatient to kick its heels off into the finale.

Even here, Haefliger's playing was vigorous but merciless. Even when the sunlight of a passing happy modulation lit a woodwind solo, his own imitation of it was held back by a hesitant little moment of rubato.

There was joy, though, in his own close, chamber-musician's empathy with the orchestral players: his forthright solo and chamber recitals are eagerly awaited.

Seizing the day

OCCASIONALLY those subterranean and nocturnal creatures, the musicians of the Royal Opera House orchestra, surface into visibility and give a concert all their own. There will be one at the Barbican on April 24, for instance, and another on May 22, Sunday's Wigmore Hall concert, though, presented by the Park Lane Group in association with the Royal Opera House, was the first time the orchestra's soloists had broken away from the pack.

At first it seemed as if the fresh air and the hard, bright light of the outside world was too much for them. Despite some beautifully focused flute playing from Sarah Brooke, Mozart's D Major Flute Quartet was dutiful, score-bound, with all too little sense of the delights of musical camaraderie.

Brooke was joined by three more of her colleagues for Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro* for harp, flute, clarinet and string quartet. Jeffrey Dyball is a robust harpist, and when he took the lead—and a risk or two as well—the ensemble caught fire, and glowed in the softy diffused light of John Payne's fine clarinet playing and Ravel's own cross-

ever with Bernard Haitink off the platform, but his presence, standing solemnly to conduct Mozart's Serenade in B flat for wind instruments, did seem a little superfluous in such an evening of chamber music-making. Entries inevitably tended to be obedient rather than intuitive, and the accompaniment of the *Thème et Variations* was rather more circumspect than it might have been without the presence of the lord and master.

But, with Haitink's own musicianship pervading the performance, there had to be gains as well. The rich and complex mosaic of dark colours which surfaced from the accompanying voices of basses, horns and bassoons in the two slow movements was very much of his making. Just as moments from *Idomeneo* flickered through the subconscious here, so passing images of *Il Segugio* lit the boisterous Rondo. And, as elegant dance-master supreme, Haitink set his indelible stamp on two highly characterful and irresistible Minuets.

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THE CLASSIC

From Italy to Finland, from Domingo to B.B. King: Kate Bassett's guide to the cultural delights of Europe

A continent of summer festivals

Flanders: An early music lover's fantasy, especially in Bruges and Antwerp. Meanwhile in Brussels, the Israel Philharmonic and Jessye Norman consider the inspiration of folk song and non-Western cultures on Brahms, Haydn and Bartók.

April-Oct (32.2.6401525, Fax 667597)

Luxembourg: Every art form is squeezed into the European City of Culture for 1995: contemporary paintings, Edward Steichen's photography, theatre, opera and dance (Marco Cunningham); film and rock. Classical concerts are spread across the year.

April 3-Dec 16 (352.72834, Fax 727112)

Monte Carlo: Primavera des Arts invigorates the Riviera. Vladimir Ashkenazy plays Beethoven. Ute Lemper sings Piaf and Dietrich.

April 15-May 17 (33.93158303, Fax 93506694)

Schwetzingen: Concerts and operas near Stuttgart, including Salieri's *Faust* and Purcell's *The Indian Queen*.

April 29-June 5 (49.711929308, Fax 9292600)

Bergen: Recitals from Kiri Te Kanawa and Felicity Lott. Also literary events, ballet and drama in this small but special Norwegian festival.

May 24-June 4 (47.55312170, Fax 55315531)

Brescia-Bergamo: Pianist Lashings of Beethoven and a homage to Bartók from pianists including Radu Lupu, Dezo Randi, Christina Ortiz.

May 4-June 6 (39.30.293022, Fax 2400771)

Dresden: Concerts in church, schloss or outdoors, including Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Operas include Wagner's *Tristan* and Britten's *Turn of the Screw*.

May 20-June 5 (49.351.4715097, Fax 4717896)

Drottningholm: Swedish festival opera season lines up Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Martin y Soler's *Una cosa rara* and a new production of François-André Philidor's *Tom Jones*.

May 27-Sept 4 (46.8.6651400, Fax 6651473)

Feldkirch: Brigitte Fassbender and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau celebrate Schubert in an Austrian festival that encompasses Schloss Achberg and Feldkirch's forest stage.

May 4-June 24 (43.5522.38001, Fax 5522.38005)



Street fun, stage finesse: the centuries come together in July for five weeks of opera, concerts and theatre in Salzburg, the city forever associated with Mozart, its greatest son

Florence Maggio Musicale: Opera, including Mozart's unfinished *Salvatore* and Schubert's *Fierrabras*. Plus the Budapest Festival Orchestra.

May 11-July 4 (39.35.211158, Fax 2779410)

Vienna: Operatic world premiere of *Die Wände*, by Adriana Holak. Nikolaus Harnoncourt presents Haydn's *L'Anima del Filosofo*. Ariane Mnouchkine brings Molière's *Tartuffe*.

May 5-June 11 (43.1.58922-0, Fax 6651473)

Budapest: Open-air theatre, art and music week.

June 1-Aug 27 (36.1.179839, Fax 179910)

Amsterdam: The theme is Art and Resistance. Theo Loeven-

die's opera *Samia* is set during the Nazi occupation, while Mbongeni Ngema's musical hopes for post-apartheid peace. Theatrical fare includes the Maly Drama Theatre.

May 31-June 30 (31.20.6276566, Fax 6203459)

Arjeplog: The Lapland Festival, Sweden's largest chamber music affair, centres on Beethoven, Bartók and Bach.

June 29-July 9 (46.961.4270, Fax 10595)

Athens/Epidaurus: Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides at the Odeon of Herod Atticus, below the Acropolis, along with opera, ballet and orchestras. Ancient Greek drama at Epidaurus.

Athens June-Sept; Epidaurus July-Aug (Greek Tourist Board 0071-734.5997)

Bad Kissingen: Orchestras and ensembles, readings, drama and jazz in the Bavarian spa town.

June 15-July 16 (49.971.807110, Fax 807191)

Bohnanian Music Festival: Half in Sweden, half in Finland. Yuri Bashmet, Truls Mørk and more join cellist Frans Helmersson for his coordinated Umeå Chamber Music Festival and Korsholm Music Festival.

June 16-21 (358.61.322 2390, Fax 322 2393)

Granada: The Alhambra, the cathedral and Renaissance monastery host events exploring the links between European, music and other cultures.

June 23-July 9 (34.58.220022, Fax 222322)

Lockenhaus: Violinist Gidon Kremer founded this chamber music festival in a tiny Austrian village. Concerts in the banqueting hall of the Gothic fortress and the pilgrims' church.

June 29-July 9 (43.2616.2224 or Heritage Cultural Tours, 0181-761 0444)

Ludwigshurg: Opera takes turns with dance: this year John Eliot Gardiner's *The Magic Flute* is preceded by international choreography from the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre and Chandralakha. Soloists include Yo Yo Ma and Julian Bream.

June 9-Sept 16 (49.7141.9396-0)

Ravenna: Concerts, opera and dance, notably flamenco from Ballet Cristina Hoyos.

June 18-July 25 (39.544.482494)

St Petersburg White Nights: The Maryinsky Theatre presents Zeffirelli's production of *Aida*, Shostakovich's *Katerina Ismaylova* and Strauss's *Salome*. Plácido Domingo sings in concert for one night.

June 15-30 Friends of the Kirov Opera 0171-608 1375 or Intourist, 0171-538 8600

Schleswig-Holstein: Pierre Boulez spends his 70th birthday in Lübeck and homage is paid to Czech composers Dvořák, Smetana and Martinu.

June 25-Aug 20 (49.40.248211-0, Fax 2803564)

Spoletto: Menotti's Umbrian festival offers, among fine opera and concerts, the Alvin Alley Dance Theatre and Robert Lepage's *Seven Streams of the River Ota*.

June 24-July 16 (39.6.3210288, Fax 3200747)

Venice: In its centenary year, the Venice Biennale's art exhibits range from America (Bill Viola) to Australia (Bill Henson), Leon Kossoff's paintings will be in the British Pavilion.

June 11-Oct 15 (39.41.5218711)

Abbeville-Provence: Classical music in picturesque surroundings, from the cathedral to the archbishop's palace. Rossini's opera *Le Comte Ory* in a new production.

July 11-30 (33.42173400, Fax 42961261)

Avignon: Theatre, music and dance in picturesque Provence. Ariane Mnouchkine directs *Tartuffe*, plus choreographers Lucinda Childs and Pina Bausch.

July 7-30 (33.90826708, Fax 90850932)

Antibes: France's leading jazz festival boasts Fats Domino, Ray Charles, B.B. King and many more.

July 17-25 (33.92.905300, Fax 905301)

Bayreuth: A year of Wagner revivals. The *Ring* conducted by James Levine. Plácido Domingo sings *Parsifal*.

July 15-Aug 28 (49.921.20221)

Bregenz: *Fidelio* aloft on a



Plácido Domingo sings *Parsifal* at Bayreuth

lakeside stage in Austria. Indoors is Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Invisible City of Kitezh*, and renowned symphony orchestras.

July 21-Aug 22 (43.5574.4920-223, Fax 4920-228)

Copenhagen: Ten days and nights of international jazz. July 7-16 (Danish Tourist Board 0171-259 5959)

Gstaad: Yehudi Menuhin's notable music festival, held amid the Alps in a giant tent. July 21-Sept 9 (41.30.48838, Fax 48747)

The Hague: American critics named North Sea Jazz the best jazz fest outside America. Bebop, salsa, blues and big names.

July 14-16 (31.15.157756)

Kuhmo Chamber Music: Top-class music from early morning to the small hours in this tiny Finnish town.

July 16-30 (358.0.493867, Fax 493856)

Musich: A mighty bout of opera. Peter Konwitschny directs Parsifal, Günter Krämer's *La Traviata* runs alongside Ennosuke Ichikawa's staging of Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. Dance from the Bayerisches Staatsballett. The Munich Film Festival (49.89.2330300) is on at the same time.

July 1-31 (49.89.2185-1920, Fax 2185-1903)

Orange: The ancient amphitheatre in Provence provides an extraordinary backdrop for Verdi's *Aida* and *Rigoletto*.

July 9-31 (33.90.518383)

Port: Thousands throng this Finnish town, absorbing the latest in jazz in the parks and factory buildings. Some bed down in schoolrooms or on the shuttling night train.

July 15-23 (358.39.550 5530, Fax 550 5525)

Salzburg: Five new opera productions: Luc Bondy's new *Marriage of Figaro* with Bryn Terfel; Rosenkavaller (Maazel conducting); Luis Pasqual's *Traviata*; Robert Wilson's *Bluebeard's Castle* (Dohnányi); and Berg's *Lulu*, staged by Peter Mussbach. Theatre includes Peter Stein's *Antony and Cleopatra* and *The Cherry Orchard*.

July 25-Aug 31 (43.662.8045)

Savonlinna: Operas and concerts in a Finnish castle courtyard. Wagner's *Flying Dutchman*, Verdi's *Macbeth*, *Tosca* (a Kirov staging), *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* and the premiere of Sallinen's *The Palace*.

July 8-Aug 5 (358.57.576730, Fax 358.57.21866)

Vadstena Academy: Operas in the Swedish town's beautiful Old Theatre and Wasa Castle: this year, Donizetti's *Il fortunato inganno*.

July 5-Aug 10 (46.143. 15125, Fax 15129)

Verona: *Rigoletto*, with Ramon Vargas; *Carmen*, with Elena Zaremba; *Turandot* and *Aida* in the Roman amphitheatre.

July 7-Sept 3 39.45.590109, Fax 8011586

AUGUST

Helsinki: Multi-arts festival, including theatre director Peter Sellars and conductor Oliver Knussen.

Aug 20-Sept 3 (358.0.1354522, Fax 2781578)

Lorient: Bearing harps and Uilleann pipes, the clans gather in Brittany for the mighty Festival Interceltique.

Aug 4-13 (33.97.212429, Fax 643413)

Lucerne: Orchestras give two concerts a day to the end of summer. Late nights with Steve Reich or the Kronos Quartet.

Aug 16-Sept 9 (41.41.233562, Fax 237784)

Pesaro: Rossini's birthplace honours him with his own operas.

Aug 12-25 (39.721.34473)

Tampere: Hundreds of shows, indoors and out in this Finnish city. Tampere also has a Jazz Happening in November and a Choir Festival in June.

Aug 15-20 (358.31.2140992, Fax 223 0121)

Utrecht: Another annual bonanza of early music in an immaculately medieval city.

Aug 25-Sept 3 (31.40.362236, Fax 322798)

SEPTEMBER

Aarhus: Theatre, opera, ballet, film and music take over the old Danish harbour city. Jazz festival in July.

Sept 2-10 (Danish Tourist Board 0171-259 5959)

Berlin: This year's festival imports the arts from Moscow in particular. The Reichstag will also be wrapped by Christo, from mid-June.

Aug 30-Oct 1 (49.30.25489-250, Fax 25489-111)

Biarritz: Latin American films, theatre, music.

Sept 25-Oct 1 (33.59 223700, Fax 221419)

Brno: Czech orchestras alongside international ensembles. Also ballet and opera.

Sept 25-Oct 14 (42.5.42215116, Fax 42211558)

Burgenland Haydn: A celebration of Haydn in the schloss and churches where he used to conduct.

Sept 8-17 (43.26.82618660)

Linx Brucknerfest: Austria's maestro is contrasted with contemporary composers.

Sept 10-Oct 1 (43.732.775230)

Mondsee: Chamber music festival founded by Andras Schiff, focusing this year on Haydn and Czech composers. Concerts in the palace and churches of this Austrian lakeside town.

Sept 2-4 (43.6232.2407, Fax 6232.3544)

Nicosia: The capital of Cyprus hosts European Cultural Month.

Sept 15-Oct 20 (Cyprus Tourist Office, 0171-734 6622)

OCTOBER

Bratislava: Music from Julian Lloyd Webber and East European orchestras. Also films.

Sept 29-Oct 13 (42.7.330378, Fax 330209)

Cork: Big jazz jamboree and film festival.

Film Festival Oct 1-8 (353.21.271711); Jazz Festival Oct 27-30 (353.21.270463)

Dublin: Theatre fêted. The Abbey presents *The Only True History of Lizzie Finn*, Sebastian Barry's new play.

Oct 2-14 (353.1.678122)

Wexford: Rare opera: Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mayskaya noch* (May Night); Pietro Mascagni's *Iris*, and *Saffo*, by Giovanni Pacini.

Oct 19-Nov 5 (353.53.22400, Fax 24289)

● The Bury St Edmunds festival referred to last week runs from May 11 to 27

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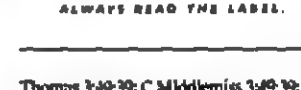
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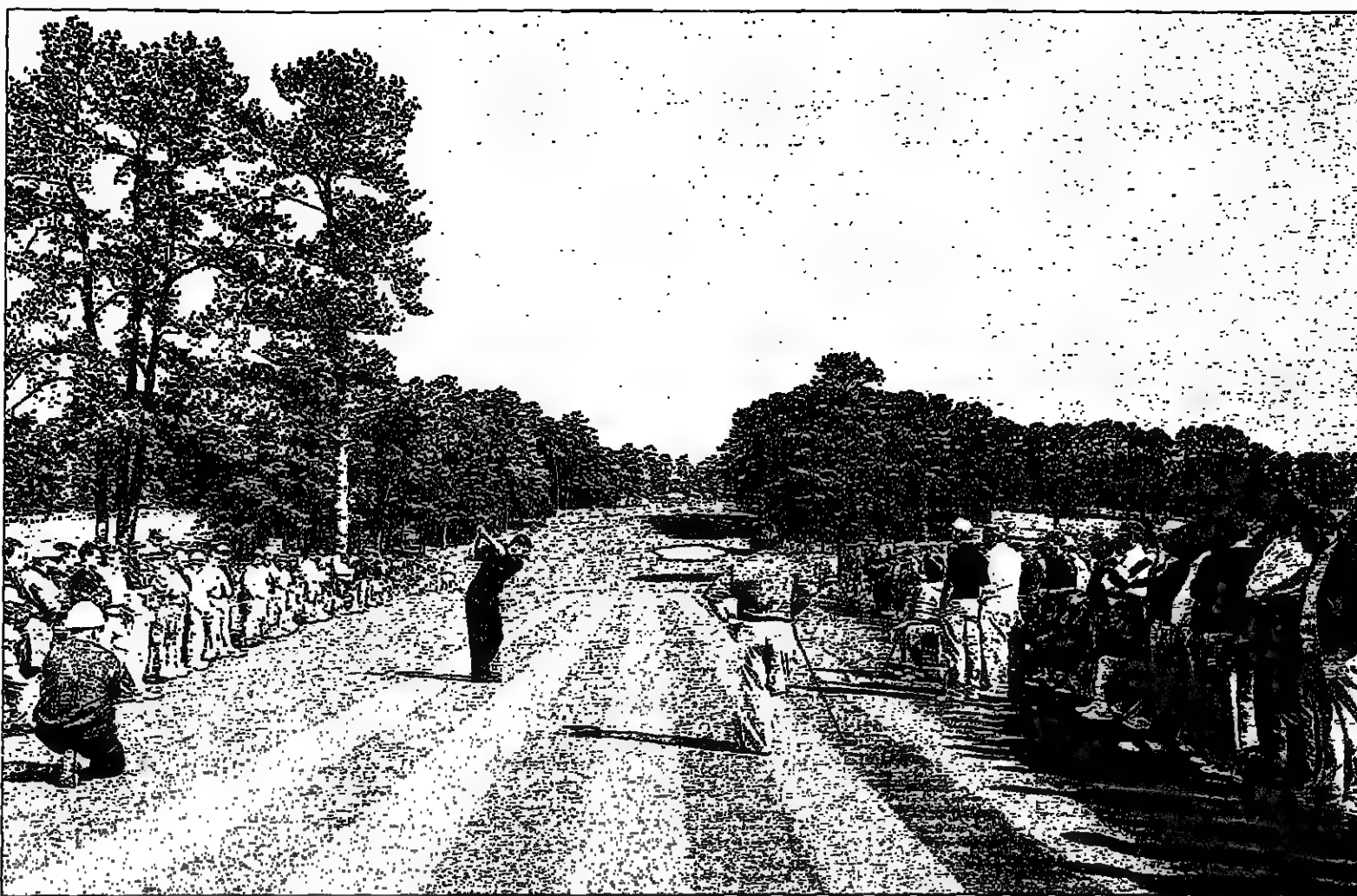
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Changing face fails to mask Masters' racial legacy



Lee James, the amateur player, tees off at the 8th hole at Augusta National watched by Ian Woosnam yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Townsend breaks Augusta's code

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

AS FAMOUS as the colours are at Augusta National Golf Club, the site of a former horticultural nursery, it is colour not colours that is being talked about as the Masters, which begins tomorrow, What a difference an s makes.

It separates the colours of the flowers after which every hole at Augusta National is named from colour, one of the most important issues of twentieth-century America. That single letter is the difference between the beauty of this particular acreage of Georgia and the beast of man's injustice to man. Augusta National Golf Club, in the heart of the deep South, has approximately 300 members; only one is black. His name is Ron Townsend. He is a 53-year-old television executive in Washington DC who was born in

Jacksonville, Florida, and grew up in Connecticut and New York City.

For years, tournament officials contrived to exclude black golfers from the Masters, altering the rules to keep out Charlie Sifford, the best black golfer of his generation. "I didn't want to play in that golf tournament because I liked the way the dogwoods look in the springtime or because I wanted to become a member of the club," Sifford wrote in his autobiography. "I wanted in precisely because they were trying to keep me out."

In 1975, they could do so no longer. After qualifying by defeating Peter Oosterhuis in a play-off in a tournament in Pensacola, Lee Elder became the first of his race to compete at Augusta, a place that had become a peak in the white man's game. It is this anniversary that is being celebrated this year. "When I walked past

the caddy area on my way to register, the caddies came out and clapped," Elder recalled. "That's how they greeted me. It was overwhelming."

This year, too, marks the debut of Tiger Woods, 19, the American amateur, who is part black. Woods refuses to acknowledge talk of his being the best black golfer because

he is also part Thai, part Chinese, part American Indian and part white, and because he wants to be known as the best golfer in the world, not the best black.

Yet you cannot avoid the colour issue at Augusta. In the clubhouse, the waiters who bring you a Peach Cobbler for pudding or scrambled eggs with grits for breakfast are predominantly black, as are the men in the locker-rooms and all the local caddies. This is what offends the visitor from Europe. The fact that it is the blacks who serve the whites is the aspect of an otherwise lovely tournament that jars.

On the lawn outside the clubhouse, beneath a spreading oak tree, everybody who is anybody in golf gathers to pass the time of day. Here, Ron Townsend can be seen flitting hither and yon in his green jacket that is the badge of honour and the signal of

membership of this august club.

When he joined the club in 1990, Townsend said he felt comfortable right away, although to almost everyone else he seemed to represent the club's token nod towards liberalism. "Frankly, I would have been very uncomfortable if they (the members) had been patronising because that's not my style," Townsend said. "I don't know what role the members played in my membership because the course is really run by one person (the chairman) ... my sense is there wasn't a vote. I don't know. I've never asked. I just know I was offered to become the 300th member."

"They (the members) treat the staff with respect. And it is the South, so let's face that fact." Townsend made these remarks in 1991. I wanted to find out his views three years on and so I lay in wait as he moved around the lawn on the sunny Sunday morning of last year's tournament, the day of José María Olazábal's victory. "Excuse me, Mr Townsend, I'm from *The Times* of London," I said as he passed. "Could I have a word with you please?" "I'm sorry sir," Townsend replied immediately. "I don't give interviews."



Townsend: respect

Wales set to spend £100m on plans for Arms Park

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) is committed to the maintenance of Cardiff Arms Park as its headquarters. Despite the attractions of a purpose-built stadium outside Cardiff, the union and South Glamorgan County Council joined hands yesterday to announce plans for redevelopment on the existing site that would be ready by 1999 — the year in which Wales will host the World Cup Final.

However, the plan hinges on a successful application to the Millennium Fund and the willingness of Cardiff club members to have their ground transferred to Cardiff Bay. In that event, the WRU would have the scope to create a new stadium around a pitch swung through 90 degrees to run parallel with the River Taff, with the possibility of a retractable roof.

A local opinion poll voted 2-1 in favour of staying in the city centre and the WRU has applied for a grant, expecting to hear the result by mid-summer. "The objective would be for work to start before the end of this year and for it to be completed by the time of the 1999 World Cup finals," Edward Jones, the secretary of the WRU, said, though no details were given of where Wales would play their international programme while the work was in progress.

The total cost of resiting the Arms Park and moving the Cardiff club to a 25,000-capacity stadium in the docks area is mooted at £100 million. "The WRU sees the future of the ground in the capital city," Jones added, though the opportunity to relocate at a 100-acre site at Island Farm outside Bridgend, close to road, rail and air links, has much to commend it.

□ Bath, who have recalled Victor Uboegbu, the England prop, for their league match with West Hartlepool on Saturday, have registered Mark Maplet, the promising young full back at Gloucester, for next season. A serious knee injury prevented Maplet, acquiring England A honours this year, but Bath may consider him as a stand-off half in the event of Mike Catt seeking to play in his international position of full back.

□ Malaysia, who regularly compete at the Hong Kong Sevens, and Ithuba, the South African development team, are to guest at the London Floodlit Sevens at Rosslyn Park on May 3. Ithuba will also play in the Middlesex Sevens on May 13.

Ebdon dismisses Welsh challenge

PETER EBDON brushed aside the challenge of Wayne Jones, of Wales, to ease comfortably into the third round of the Castella Classic British Open snooker tournament at Plymouth yesterday (Phil Yates writes). Ebdon, of England, won 5-1 to set up a meeting with James Wattana, the Thailand Open champion, who put out Dean Reynolds, the left-hander, 5-2.

Alan McManus, of Scotland, who beat Ebdon in the final of the Dubai Classic last October, suffered another defeat in his decline since that success, losing to Dave Harold, the world No 19, 5-1. "I'm having an awful run of the balls and I can't understand it," McManus, the world No 6, said. "I'm relaxed and hitting the ball sweet enough, but things are just not going for me."

Woodley earns reward

BOWLS: Jan Woodley, of Scotland, the defending champion, and two former winners, Mary Price, of England, and Margaret Johnston, of Ireland, began their campaign with victories in the Churchill Insurance women's world indoor championship at Cumbernauld yesterday. Woodley had to work hard for her 7-3, 4-7, 7-5 win over Mary Tosh, of Ireland, while Johnston survived a scare before beating Pat Smyth 2-7, 7-0, 7-6. Price, the winner in 1991, was in impressive form when defeating Doreen Rowlands, the Welsh champion, 7-6, 7-2.

Divers drop out

SWIMMING: Britain has withdrawn from the European Diving Cup because some of the nation's best divers have refused to affiliate to the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) of England. The Amateur Swimming Federation of Great Britain said that it had "reluctantly" made its decision to withdraw from the event, which is being held at Strasbourg, France, on April 15 and 16, because Sheffield Diving Club, whose divers make up half the British team, had declined to join the ASA.

Olympic partners

OLYMPIC GAMES: Ballroom dancing and surfing have been granted provisional recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The governing bodies of the two activities, the International Sports Dance Federation and the International Surfing Association, have two years to convince IOC members of their claims to full recognition. If successful, they would join 17 other non-Olympic sports waiting in the wings.

England include Halls

HOCKEY: Julian Halls and Robert Crutchley, who are playing for clubs in the Australian National Hockey League, will join the England squad for six matches in 11 days against Australia next month. The tour marks the start of England's preparations for the European championship, to be played in Dublin from August 16 to 27.

Claymores sack coach

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: The Scottish Claymores have dismissed Larry Kuharich, their head coach, five days before they start their World League of American Football season against Rhein Fire at Murrayfield. Kuharich, who was appointed in November, was replaced by Jim Criner, the Claymores' offensive line coach, after consultations with the players and other staff.

Franz Stampfl dies

ATHLETICS: Franz Stampfl, who advised Roger Bannister in his preparation to become the first man to run a sub-four minute mile, has died in Melbourne, Australia. He was 81. The Australian coach also guided Chris Chubbaway to the world 5,000 metres record, Chris Brasher to the Olympic steeplechase gold medal and Brian Hewson to the 1958 European 1,500 metres title.

Obituary, page 17

MIDWEEK RENDEZVOUS

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The annual match between The Lords and The Commons for The Guardian Challenge Trophy was held at the Portland Club last week. The Commons won by 3,790 aggregate points. The Lords now lead the series 11-10. The cup for the best-played hand was awarded to Lord Brougham and Vaux, a descendant of the Lord Brougham who introduced the game of bridge to England in 1894, via the Portland Club.

Dealer North		Love all	
♠ AKJ842	♥	♠	♥
♦ K9	♣ K10832	♦	♣
♠ Q108	♥ A10932	♠	♥
♦ A103	♣	♦	♣
♠	♥	♠	♥
♦	♣	♦	♣
♠	♥	♠	♥
♦	♣	♦	♣
♠	♥	♠	♥
♦	♣	♦	♣
♠	♥	♠	♥
♦	♣	♦	♣

Contract: Six Clubs by South. Lead: Five of spades

In effect, North bid Six Clubs over Two Clubs, a reasonable speculation. On this type of bidding, an aggressive lead is called for: if West leads a diamond, the defence takes the first two tricks. Also possible is the ace of hearts, the lead found at another table. Here, that gives the declarer an easy ride.

One other declarer received a passive lead against Six Clubs. Thinking that he needed the ace of diamonds outside, he led a diamond to the king after drawing trumps, and so went down.

Lord Brougham won the spade with the ace and drew two rounds of trumps. Next, he played a second spade to the king and ruffed a spade. When the suit divided, that gave him five tricks in spades, five in clubs and three heart ruffs: the position of the ace of diamonds was irrelevant.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- SICHERHEITSDIENST
a. Idealistic philosophy
b. Glacier shale
c. The Gestapo
- SPLIFF
a. A card-sharp
b. A turn in skiing
c. An exonerating
- THELEMIC
a. A placebo
b. Free-for-all
c. The "peeping grape tomato"
- UPSILON
a. A particle
b. An inverted pyramid
c. An Icelandic greeting

Answers: page 38

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Champion retires

Maia Chiburdanidze, the women's world champion from 1978 until 1991, has retired from chess to become a nun in the mountains of Georgia, her home country. She said: "For me, God is now both my inner and my outer life." Last month, she was eliminated in the final of the women's world championship qualifying competition in St Petersburg by Zsuzsa Polgar, of Hungary. Chiburdanidze has donated her loser's purse of \$35,000 to charitable purposes.

Baker ahead

In the St Peters de Beauvoir tournament, now being held in London, Chris Baker has moved into the sole lead with four wins in four games. The following was the best game of the fourth round.

White: Holland
Black: Olesen

St Peters de Beauvoir tournament, London, April 1995

English Opening

1. d4 g6
2. Nc3 Bg7
3. g3 e5
4. Bg2 Ne6
5. f4 Nf6
6. d5 O-O
7. e3 Nc7

Diagram of final position



White resigns

White: Holland

Black: Olesen

St Peters de Beauvoir tournament, London, April 1995

English Opening

1. d4 g6
2. Nc3 Bg7
3. g3 e5
4. Bg2 Ne6
5. f4 Nf6
6. d5 O-O
7. e3 Nc7

This position is from the game Quinteros - Tukmakov, Leningrad 1973. How did White now obtain a decisive material advantage?

Solution: page 38

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امكان العمل

Master Oats frustrated by fog

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

MASTER OATS is not having the best of the weather. If public confidence behind the Gold Cup winner has evaporated with the drying ground, it was thick fog that kept the horse idle at Kim Bailey's stables yesterday.

To complete his Grand National preparation, Master Oats was to have schooled over a replica of an Aintree fence. But that exercise was postponed for 24 hours when the weather was too poor to find visibility around Lambourn at a premium.

"It's not a problem," was the simple verdict from Bailey, who remains remarkably relaxed under what are now becoming unfavourable circumstances.

As the racing surface at Aintree shed further moisture yesterday, punters maintained their support for horses proven on a sound surface. Ladbrokes, who trimmed Young Hustler to 7-1 from a point long, reported no significant interest for Master Oats, who disputes favouritism with Milnnehoia at 6-1.

However, Bailey does not believe the ground is against him. "I know there's nothing I can do about it, but if you asked me beforehand what I'd do, I'd have told you good ground," he said. "Four and a half miles (the distance of the National) is long way. Master Oats will have plenty of time to get into the race. After a season of heavy ground it is now turning the other way. But I'm happy with that, just as long as it's not fast. It's still very much on the cards that the horse will run."

Bailey will walk the course



Jenny Pitman's Royal Athlete will be Jason Titley's first ride in the Grand National. Photograph: Ed Byrne

before the three-day meeting opens tomorrow. "Even then, it won't really matter what we find because we won't make a final decision until Saturday morning in case it rains on Friday night."

Grand National fortune smiled on Patricia Thompson three years ago, when Party Politics, her eye-of-race purchase, completed a memorable victory. But this year's attempt, to repeat the trick appears to have foundered. Her recent purchase, Com-

mercial Artist, is now a doubtful runner after contracting a bout of colic. A firm decision about the Victor Bowen-trained 25-1 chance will be made this morning.

The National mount on General Pershing offered Tony Dobbin a good opportunity to cap a memorable first season as stable jockey. But the Irish-born jockey was yesterday ruled out of the race after he sustained damage to his vertebrae in a heavy fall at

Kelso on Monday. Jason Titley is to have his first taste of the Grand National as the Jenny Pitman-trained Royal Athlete.

Barry Hills, the Lambourn trainer, will break new ground during the flat season when he establishes a satellite yard in Germany. Hills has secured a six-month lease on ten boxes at the newly refurbished Krefeld racetrack, near Düsseldorf. "It is something I've had in mind for some time," the trainer said. "I

can run my horses two or three times before bringing them home. There is also easy access to Lillies Hall Farm."

Matthew McCloy, the solicitor who forms part of the Aga Khan's legal team, is to succeed Sir Nevill Macreddy as chairman of the British Horseracing Board's Industry Committee. McCloy prevailed by ballot, at the expense of Rhydian Morgan-Jones, chairman of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association.

Nahar can turn tables

ASCOT

BBC1

2.30: The firm ground, which scared off many of the original entries, makes this a tricky card for punters after a winter of soft going. Does Dilemma has shown little over fences so far, although he could improve as his best hurdle form was on faster ground. Irish Stamp's second to Talbot last time reads well but Ferdie Murphy's chaser may be found out by these stiffer fences.

Ascot Lad almost won at Sandown last month after returning from a near two-year lay-off. Horses sometimes top off their second season with a good performance but it could be worth risking Ben de Haan's novice, whose best hurdle form was on a sound surface.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

3.05: Plenty of pace looks guaranteed here. Act Of Parliament will be fit enough despite an absence of 128 days and won on good to firm ground over hurdles. Kim Bailey's chaser made all the running when winning a decent race at Liverpool in the Autumn. Postage Stamp is another who likes to make the running and goes well on fast ground. Ferdie Mur-

phy's novice won a weak race at Newbury last time. The jockey of the race could play into the hands of Red Bean, who is fast improving and should appreciate today's step-up in distance.

3.35: This is a dreadful race considering the amount of prize-money at stake. Nahar showed little on his belated seasonal reappearance seven weeks ago, prefers soft ground and is untrustworthy. Al Asof has shown no form this season. Sand-Dollar, who is having his first race this campaign, beat Nahar by a length and a half at Cheltenham in December 1993, but recouped on 10lb worse terms so the latter, who ran respectably at Newbury 12 days ago, should turn the tables.

RICHARD EVANS

RIPON

THUNDERER

2.25 Don't Forget Miki. 2.55 Merry Mermad. 3.30 Palace of the Kings. 4.00 Torment. 4.30 Contrasts. 5.00 Goshawk Herring. 5.30 Anselma.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.00 TORRENTIAL (nap). 4.30 Contrasts. 5.00 Toy Princess.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.25 EUROPEAN BREEDERS' FUND SPA WELTER

MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; 2,424.21; 50) (16 runners)

10-11 (11) 21-22 (11) 31-32 (11) 41-42 (11) 51-52 (11) 61-62 (11) 71-72 (11) 81-82 (11) 91-92 (11) 101-102 (11) 111-112 (11) 121-122 (11) 131-132 (11) 141-142 (11) 151-152 (11) 161-162 (11) 171-172 (11) 181-182 (11) 191-192 (11) 201-202 (11) 211-212 (11) 221-222 (11) 231-232 (11) 241-242 (11) 251-252 (11) 261-262 (11) 271-272 (11) 281-282 (11) 291-292 (11) 301-302 (11) 311-312 (11) 321-322 (11) 331-332 (11) 341-342 (11) 351-352 (11) 361-362 (11) 371-372 (11) 381-382 (11) 391-392 (11) 401-402 (11) 411-412 (11) 421-422 (11) 431-432 (11) 441-442 (11) 451-452 (11) 461-462 (11) 471-472 (11) 481-482 (11) 491-492 (11) 501-502 (11) 511-512 (11) 521-522 (11) 531-532 (11) 541-542 (11) 551-552 (11) 561-562 (11) 571-572 (11) 581-582 (11) 591-592 (11) 601-602 (11) 611-612 (11) 621-622 (11) 631-632 (11) 641-642 (11) 651-652 (11) 661-662 (11) 671-672 (11) 681-682 (11) 691-692 (11) 701-702 (11) 711-712 (11) 721-722 (11) 731-732 (11) 741-742 (11) 751-752 (11) 761-762 (11) 771-772 (11) 781-782 (11) 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Sporting ambition destined to go unfulfilled for all but the chosen few

A million dreamers make one champion

Two American vignettes. One, the high school won't release the boy's grades, because his mother, who's on welfare, owes \$1,800 in tuition fees. Father been doing drugs, in jail for burglary. Boy needs the grades to continue his education at a different school, in order, he hopes, to win a basketball scholarship to college. It's a scene, real life, from the lauded documentary *Hoop Dreams*.

Two, Michael Jordan, now called His Airness, A video.

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

Come Fly With Me. Commentary: "Determined to prove his coach wrong, Michael worked even harder, growing four inches... Oh, the things that can be done in America by hard work and staying true to your dream."

It is possible that Jordan is the greatest player of a team ball game that has ever been in any sport. Certainly, there is a scarcely an American alive who would give you an argument.

Pel? Well, yes, perhaps; but we are talking about the level that is higher than mere excellence. And the tale of Jordan's comeback adds another layer to the myth, to the reality.

The return of Jordan was greeted in terms which were little short of blasphemy:

resurrection, second coming. The more Jordan protests that he is a normal chap, the more he is deified.

Jordan took a 21-month sabbatical to play baseball. They never come back: an old law and not quite true. Coming back is just the ultimate challenge. Call it the Muhammad Ali Moth Test, a Moth Test being a scale for the hardness of abrasives.

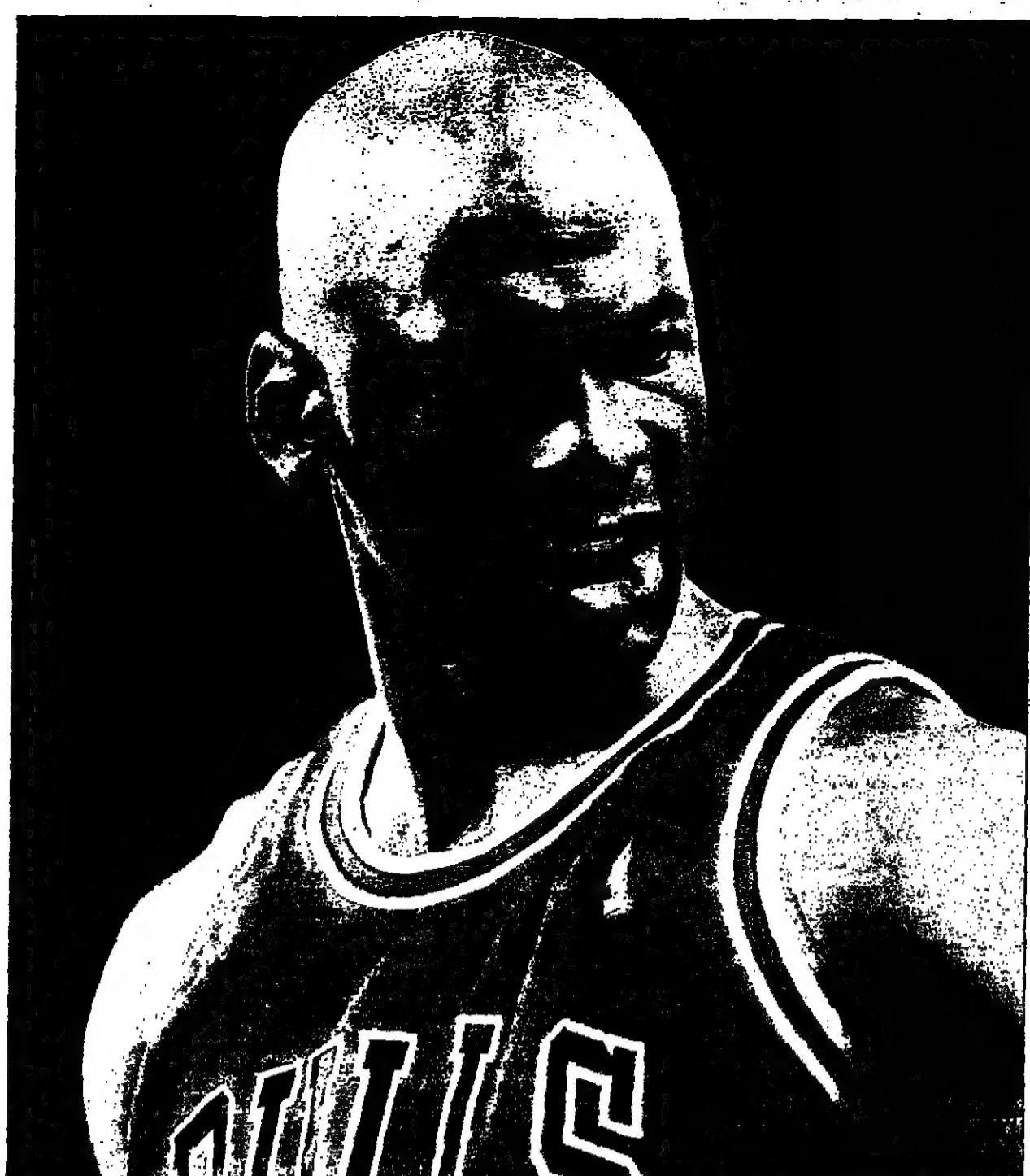
Jordan's first game back was a little slow; he scored seven times from 28 attempts. But a few days later he set an individual record for a visitor to Madison Square Garden, scoring 55 points against the New York Knicks. His team, the Chicago Bulls, inconsistent this season, have started to win: the Jordan Effect. They have been galvanised into the play-offs, the last 16.

Jordan scored 12 points against the Philadelphia 76ers last weekend: less than wonderful. But he led his team for assists, with six. He's back: at least, a piece of him. The comeback saga has riveted America. It makes a nice change from O. J. Simpson.

I remember - will not forget - watching Jordan in the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals in 1993. Criticised heavily after a defeat for "trying too hard" in game three, in game four he scored, yes, 55 points. "He inflamed his will on us," said Phil Westphal, the coach for the opposing Phoenix Suns. "I was amazed. But I was not surprised."

To be an overwhelming man of the match is one thing: Steve MacManaman, Rob Andrew at the weekend. To bend both team-mates and opposition to your will - that is rare, if not unique.

Which rather invalidates any notion of Jordan as role model. You can't model yourself on a nonpareil. *Hoop Dreams* is powerfully revealing.



Jordan conquered the ultimate challenge with his return to professional basketball after a 21-month absence

ing of the aspirational culture of America, and of sport everywhere.

Sport is ruthless, utterly unfeeling. It is also extraordinarily expensive in terms of people: wasteful, profligate. How many aspirants does it take to produce one Jordan? Or even one decent professional, in British football or American basketball? This is not a career, it is the wildest of wild games.

How many middle-class English boys are told "Enjoy your cricket. But don't even

think of making a career of it. Be smart: be a lawyer, an accountant."

They don't say that to footballers. In darkest London, basketball players in Chicago. And they don't count the number who fail. Picture the great players of any game. They stand, not on the ground, but on a vast pyramid of failure. Players, mostly boys, who reached a certain level, and failed.

Not good enough. Not big enough. Not resilient enough. Not quick enough. Or just

unlucky. Perhaps the cruciate ligament went when they played, a little lame, in that big game. Or the family support system broke down. A solid home life is one of the recurring factors in the biographies of champions.

Sport is built upon failure, upon heartbreak. In *Hoop Dreams*, though both the subjects of the documentary avoid it, failure breathes down their necks. We feel the awful fragility of the sporting dream: "Basketball is my ticket out of the ghetto," says one of the

boys. True but the ghettoes remain. We can reveal in the ability of Jordan, but we cannot believe the saccharine tale of the man who simply followed his dream. It takes a million dreamers to produce a single champion. There is a price for sporting excellence, and it is one that champions do not pay.

Hoop Dreams is showing at MGM cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue, London. *Come Fly With Me* is on NBA video, released by FoxVideo.

Wigan look ahead to another record

By Christopher Irvine

AGAINST the sacrificial lambs of Doncaster, only the brave or foolhardy would bet against Wigan rewriting another record tonight. They require 32 points to exceed the 941 scored in their runaway rugby league championship win of 1997.

Unless Doncaster have found a sudden cure to the defensive ills that cost them 74 points at Bradford Northern last Sunday, Wigan should make hay at the expense of the bottom club in the champions' inexorable march towards a sixth successive Bitter Championship first division title, even if, as expected, they choose to mix youth with experience in their line-up.

Eleven of 157 championship tries - 18 is perhaps pushing it tonight - to beat their record - came at Halifax's expense at the weekend.

As Hull have still to play the top three of Wigan, Leeds and St Helens, the thread by which they dangle above the second division would inevitably be cut by defeat at home tonight. Featherstone will want to bounce back from defeat by Leeds in the Challenge Cup semi-final, in which suspected foul play by Steve Molloy and Joe Naidole has resulted in their referrals to tomorrow's Rugby Football

League (RFL) disciplinary committee.

While rugby league remains a winter game, there is no chance of parallel seasons in England and Australia and establishment of a world league, a possible outcome of the schism in the Australian game, which the RFL is anxious about. Yet today, club representatives will discuss for the first time a switch to summer.

Other than better weather and firmer pitches, the pro-sommer lobby have advanced few persuasive arguments. Up against a British sporting summer set in tablets of stone, a season from March to October would lack the oxygen of publicity or anything like the television coverage the sport gets at present.

The Australian - Rugby League, which is trying to dissuade more than 100 of its players from joining a break-away league, has urged no change to the English season in order to sustain tours between the countries.

Kelvin Skerrett, Wigan prop, may miss the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against Leeds at Wembley on April 29 if he is found guilty of having deliberately struck an opponent in Sunday's 62-6 hammering of Halifax.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

SEATTLE: NCAA Final: UCLA 99 Arkansas 76

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA)

Eastern division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	53	19	.736	-
New York	47	25	.653	6
Boston	43	29	.597	10
Miami	39	33	.542	14
New Jersey	38	34	.527	15
Philadelphia	35	37	.486	18
Washington	18	54	.250	35
Central division	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	46	26	.638	-
Charlotte	43	29	.597	3
Cleveland	42	30	.583	4
Chicago	39	33	.542	7
Pittsburgh	38	34	.527	8
Atlanta	35	37	.486	11
Memphis	26	46	.361	20
Western division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	52	16	.763	-
Portland	49	19	.722	3
Houston	45	23	.662	7
Utah	43	25	.630	9
Denver	38	30	.559	14
Minnesota	20	52	.277	33
Pacific division	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	51	17	.750	-
Phoenix	49	19	.722	2
LA Lakers	46	22	.677	5
Portland	43	25	.630	8
Sacramento	34	34	.500	17
Golden State	22	49	.311	29
LA Clippers	15	56	.267	37

PLAYOFF PLACE

Eastern division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	53	19	.736	-
New York	47	25	.653	6
Boston	43	29	.597	10
Miami	39	33	.542	14
New Jersey	38	34	.527	15
Philadelphia	35	37	.486	18
Washington	18	54	.250	35
Central division	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	46	26	.638	-
Charlotte	43	29	.597	3
Cleveland	42	30	.583	4
Chicago	39	33	.542	7
Pittsburgh	38	34	.527	8
Atlanta	35	37	.486	11
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Houston	45	23	.662	7
Utah	43	25	.630	9
Denver	38	30	.559	14
Minnesota	20	52	.277	33
Pacific division	W	L	Pct	GB
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Phoenix	49	19	.722	2
LA Lakers	46	22	.677	5
Portland	43	25	.630	8
Sacramento	34	34	.500	17
Golden State	22	49	.311	29
LA Clippers	15	56	.267	37

FOOTBALL

Non-UEFA 73: 1st round: 1st leg

European Cup

1st leg: Bayern Munich v Ajax (0-0)

1st leg: Paris Saint-Germain v AC Milan (0-0)

1st leg: Borussia Dortmund v Lazio (0-0)

1st leg: Juventus v Tottenham (0-0)

1st leg: Real Madrid v Barcelona (0-0)

1st leg: Manchester United v Liverpool (0-0)

1st leg: Chelsea v Arsenal (0-0)

1st leg: Tottenham v Manchester United (0-0)

1st leg: Liverpool v Chelsea (0-0)

1st leg: Arsenal v Tottenham (0-0)

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1st leg: Juventus v Tottenham (0-0)

1st leg: Real Madrid v Barcelona (0-0)

1st leg: Manchester United v Liverpool (0-0)

1st leg: Chelsea v Arsenal (0-0)

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1st leg: Arsenal v Tottenham (0-0)

1st leg: Manchester United v Liverpool (0-0)

1st leg: Chelsea v Arsenal (0-0)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Ottawa 4

Montreal 3, St Louis 3, Toronto 2, Los Angeles 1

Eastern conference

Philadelphia 18, New York 17, Boston 16

Washington 15, Pittsburgh 14, Detroit 13

Florida 12, Tampa Bay 11, St Louis 10

NY Rangers 9, Dallas 8, Colorado 7

Western conference

Quebec 14, St Louis 13, Detroit 12

Pittsburgh 11, Washington 10, Philadelphia 9

San Jose 8, Dallas 7, Colorado 6

Los Angeles 5, Edmonton 4, Vancouver 3

Calgary 2, Phoenix 1, San Jose 0

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TENNIS

US Open: First round: Andre Agassi 6-4

Sampras 6-3, Kriekemeyer 6-4, Kriekemeyer 6-4

US Open: Second round: Andre Agassi 6-4

Sampras 6-3, Kriekemeyer 6-4, Kriekemeyer 6-4

US Open: Third round: Andre Agassi 6-4

Sampras 6-3, Kriekemeyer 6-4, Kriekemeyer 6-4

US Open: Fourth round: Andre Agassi 6-4

Sampras 6-3, Kriekemeyer 6-4, Kriekemeyer 6-4

US Open: Fifth round: Andre Agassi 6-4

Sampras 6-3, Kriekemeyer 6-4, Kriekemeyer 6-4

US Open: Sixth round: Andre Agassi 6-4

Sampras 6-3, Kriekemeyer 6-4, Kriekemeyer 6-4

US Open: Seventh round: Andre Agassi 6-4

Sampras 6-3, Kriekemeyer 6-4, Kriekemeyer 6-4

US Open: Eighth round: Andre Agassi 6-4

Sampras 6-3, Kriekemeyer 6-4, Kriekemeyer 6-4

US Open: Ninth round: Andre Agassi 6-4

Sampras 6-3, Kriekemeyer 6-4, Kriekemeyer 6-4

US Open: Tenth round: Andre Agassi 6-4

Sampras 6-3, Kriekemeyer 6-4, Kriekemeyer 6-4

US Open: Eleventh round: Andre Agassi 6-4

Sampras 6-3, Kriekemeyer 6-4, Kriekemeyer 6-4

Merson admits cocaine and alcohol problems made him consider suicide

FA targets
young in
anti-drugs
campaign

By JOHN GOODBODY

CHILDREN as young as nine could be randomly tested as part of the Football Association's £1 million campaign against players taking drugs, particularly "social" drugs such as heroin, cannabis and cocaine.

As Paul Merson, the Arsenal and England forward, admitted at the launch of the programme in London yesterday that he was "near suicide" as a result of his problems with cocaine, alcohol and gambling, the FA's educational programme was publicly endorsed by the Prime Minister.

After a season in which Merson, Chris Armstrong, of Crystal Palace, and two Charlton Athletic youngsters have tested positive for recreational drugs, leaflets and a video will now be shown to 15,000 players at 146 centres of excellence. The campaign will be backed by a testing programme.

Alan Hodgson, head of the FA's sports medicine institute at Lillleshall, said youngsters as young as nine could be tested, although their parents would have to give their written agreement and a doctor of the same sex would have to be present at the urine sampling.

Although the FA believes that there is not a "significant drug problem" in football, especially with performance-enhancing substances, Graham Kelly, its chief executive, recognised that drug-taking "permeates the whole of society and football is not immune".

Merson, who admitted to taking cocaine and drinking excessively last November, said: "I consider myself very lucky. I made a massive

mistake. I got given a second chance and I do not expect a third chance. I just don't drink, use drugs or gamble." Asked about the ways alcohol and drugs affected his performance, Merson said: "I did not use drugs before the games but the drink really had an effect." Speaking about his state of mind at the time, he said: "I hit rock bottom. I was near suicide. There were times when I was at the wheel and I used to think about pulling over in front of a lorry."

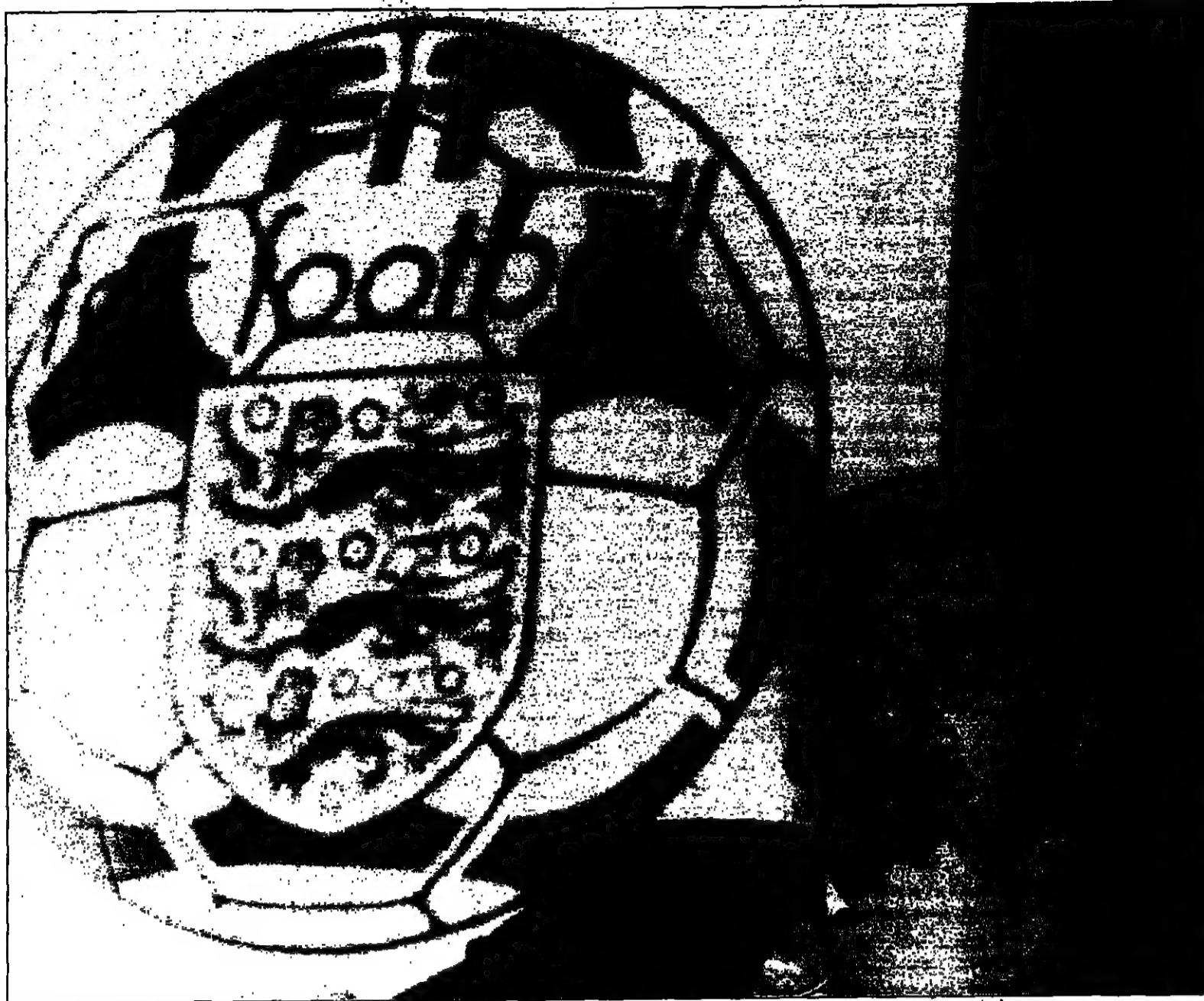
Merson missed 20 games for Arsenal and undertook a rehabilitation course. Although he returned to the first team in February, he still visits the Southampton clinic where he was treated and attends three other meetings a week to talk over his problems. He has been tested seven times since November.

Merson, 27, who last played for England against Greece in May 1994, said his two ambitions were to win more trophies for Arsenal and gain more international caps.

Terry Venables, the England coach, who was also present, said: "I have great respect for Paul, who has come out and talked about it. I would welcome him back if he can put all this in the past."

Kelly described the campaign as "one of the most important with which the FA has ever been involved". The video contains footage of players such as Alan Shearer and Andy Cole and managers such as Ron Atkinson and Joe Royle warning players not to take drugs or to drink excessively.

In a written message to the launch, John Major said: "The importance of educating young people about the problems of drugs is a vital one.



Merson, the Arsenal and England forward, at the launch of the FA's initiative against drugs yesterday. Photograph: Russell Boyce

and encouraging young people to continue an interest in sport while learning about those dangers is particularly valuable work."

The FA has become worried because young players, earning large amounts of money, are natural targets for people selling drugs. By distributing leaflets to youngsters and warning them that they might be drug-tested, it hopes to alert them to problems that they may face later in their careers. The FA has increased the number of tests from 80 last season to 360 this year, including random tests during training. These include tests for alcohol levels on the days before games, although the FA says that no adverse levels have been found.

The FA has also insisted that it will continue with its

policy of confidentiality over the identities of players who fail tests, although this season their names have leaked out.

Kelly said: "Part of the message that we are trying to put across is that you cannot take drugs and hope to play professional football. Any period away from the game, however short, is a punishment for a professional sportsman."

David Davies, the FA head of public affairs, defended the sport's links with drink companies, including Carling's sponsorship of the Premiership. "The drink companies themselves are the first to condemn alcohol abuse," he said. "The companies are some of the most successful in the world. We are happy to be associated with their success."

Cantona set for contract talks

By PETER BALL

RUMOURS of the imminent departure of Eric Cantona from English football were shown to be premature yesterday when Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, confirmed that the club will re-open talks with Cantona's agent about a new contract on Monday.

There had been fears that his court appearance and extended ban by the Football Association had soured Cantona's love affair with Manchester United. That is not so, apparently.

"Eric has told me that he wants to stay at Old Trafford and I have told him I want the

same thing," Ferguson said yesterday.

United dismissed reports that Cantona's agent is due to meet officials of Internazionale in Paris today to finalise a transfer to the Italian club. "The only meeting his agent has got coming is with my chairman, Martin Edwards, next Monday, when they will be thrashing out the terms of a new contract for Eric," Ferguson said.

That may still take some doing if reports of Cantona's terms, which suggest pay of £25,000 a week, are accurate, but there seems little doubt that both parties are committed to an agreement. Unlike as it seemed a few weeks ago, if a foreigner does leave Old Trafford, it is more likely to be Andrei Kanchelskis.

After reportedly playing with eight pain-killing injections for Russia last Wednesday, Kanchelskis is to see another specialist today in the attempt to solve the mystery of his stomach strain, which ruled him out of Sunday's draw with Leeds United.

The suspicion is growing at Old Trafford that his remarks about wanting to join Rangers in Glasgow suggest that his commitment to the club is waning.

West Indies feel effects of morning after night before

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK
IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

SQUAD

R E Richardson (capt), S C Williams, B C Lara, C L Hooper, J C Adams, K L Arthurton, J R Murray, S Chandernagel, C E L Gomes, C A Walsh, W M Benjamin, K C G Benjamin, R Dhanraj

THE West Indies cricketers, those idols of the Caribbean, find themselves in the unaccustomed position of being vilified. This is not just for having been beaten so resoundingly by Australia in the first Test match. It has since emerged that they had been out on the tiles on Saturday night, before surrendering so irresolutely on Sunday, so you may imagine the even greater outrage which that has caused.

On the last Australia tour of the West Indies it was the Australian bowlers who chose the wrong time to light up the Bajan night. Having just bowled West Indies out for 149 they thought they would not be needed again for a while. When, next day, Australia themselves were dismissed before tea their bowlers returned to action, scarcely able to locate the stumps.

I recall Allan Lamb, while standing in as England captain at Brisbane in 1990, and David Gower making the mistake of being seen with Kerry Packer, of all people, in a casino 50 miles out of town late on the night before England suffered one of their more horrendous collapses. To make matters worse, Lamb, not out overnight, led the procession next day. In 1959, 60, Walter Robins, manager of the MCC team, considered it necessary to impose a curfew in Trinidad, though I do not remember this as being a particularly boisterous England side.

Ordering Godfrey Evans or Walter Hagen or Garry Sobers or Walter Hammond to bed at 10pm on the eve of a

big match could have led to a succession of byes, missed puts or first ball dismissals. The secret, of course, is to do your own thing but to keep on winning, and in their attempt to get back into the right groove the West Indian selectors have dropped Sherwin Campbell and recalled Keith Arthurton for the second Test match, starting in Antigua on Saturday. Arthurton, in fact, averages 52 against Australia, a figure boosted by an unbeaten 157 against them in Brisbane two years ago.

For years West Indies were spoilt by having, in Desmond Haynes and Gordon Greenidge, the game's most formidable opening pair.

Comparing them with Campbell and Stuart Williams, who

went in first together in this last Test match, is like comparing men with boys. When Greenidge was pensioned off in 1991 Haynes was given Simmons for a partner, but with qualified success.

Now, with Haynes himself estranged from the West Indies board, the position is dire. The chances are that Richardson will go in first with Williams in Antigua. Simmons, for all his weight of stroke, is thought to have failed too often at Test level the averages, only 23 from 41 innings. Williams, however, is doing no better (11 Test innings, average 18). For the moment, anyway, West Indies are in a muddle - and next month, don't forget, they are due in England.

□ Worcestershire learnt yesterday that they will have the services of Tom Moody, the Australian batsman, this season. Moody has been omitted from the Australia A party to tour England during the summer and will report back to New Road in time for Worcestershire's opening match. The county had made contingency plans to replace Moody with David Houghton, the coach, as overseas player.

Graeme Hick, the other leading Worcestershire batsman, has recovered from the back problems that forced him to miss the last two Test matches of the Ashes series in Australia.

Essex have appointed Nasser Hussain as vice-captain to Paul Prichard, who succeeded Graham Gooch as captain. Mark Ilett, who returned early from the England A tour of India with a hip injury, reported back fully fit when the Essex squad trained yesterday.



Arthurton: recalled for second Test

Dramatic finale to defender series

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL
IN SAN DIEGO

IT WAS showdown II here last night as Bill Koch's women's crew battled against Dennis Comer for the right to meet Young America, Kevin Mahaney's top-seeded yacht, in the finals of the defence trials for the America's Cup.

The race was to be a rematch of the lop-sided event on Sunday, in which Comer unexpectedly recorded a victory by more than four minutes over Koch's *Mighty Mary*. This time, the Texas multimillionaire expected his women's team to prevail.

Both have a lot riding on the outcome. For Comer, defeat would mean that he has not reached the finals, as a cup challenger or defender, for the first time in 21 years. Koch, who has upwards of \$30 million (£19 million) riding on the outcome, needs a victory to unlock the sponsorship pledges that will maintain the charitable status of his huge foundation.

"We dodged one bullet on Sunday - we're confident," Paul Cayard, who shares the wheel of *Stars & Stripes* with Comer, said before the race.

"I hate sudden deaths like this," Dawn Riley, Koch's crew boss, admitted candidly. Despite the millions behind the women's challenge, Comer's frugal challenger began the match as favourite.

His crew has a 12-5 win/loss record against Koch's and a 5-3 edge over the latest boat, *Mighty Mary*, which includes a 3-2 lead since David Dellenbaugh took over as tactician.

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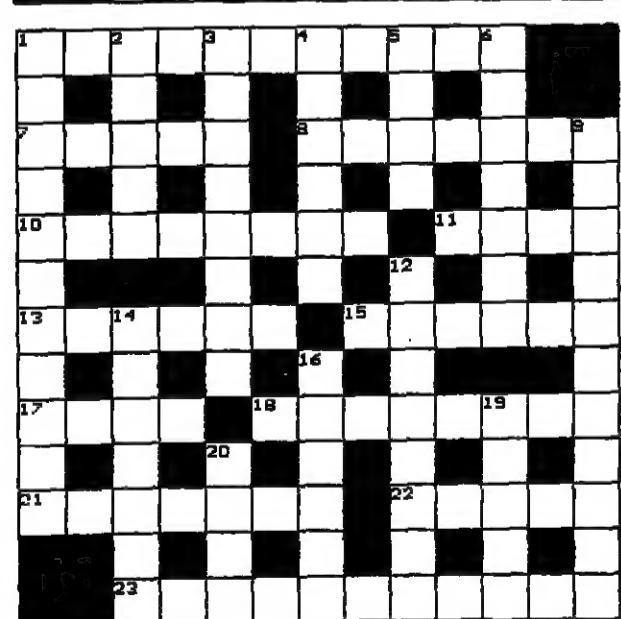
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TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 438

ACROSS

- Scruple, feeling of remorse (11)
- Brazer (5)
- Place to tie up boat (7)
- Prophecy, ambiguous (8)
- Lady's formal dress (4)
- Fetter: walk awkwardly (6)
- I've got it! (6)
- Almost closed (4)
- Upland rural enterprise (4,4)
- Emergency spare (5-2)
- Higher (5)
- Thorough rebuff (3,2,3,3)

DOWN

- Affect each side (3,4,4)
- Obsessional craze (5)
- Separate (eg rail wagons) (8)
- Fighting action (6)
- Element: domestic appliance (4)
- Offensively smelly (7)
- French police (11)
- Military leave (8)
- Display of self-confidence (7)
- Chinese transliteration system (6)
- Garden of Eden fruit (5)
- Timber-shaping tool (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 437
ACROSS: 5 Argue the toss 8 Popgun 9 Vulcan 10 Tusk 12 Fantasy 14 Keyhole 15 Coda 17 Banana 18 Ravage 20 Skipping-rope
DOWN: 1 Pat on the back 2 Agog 3 Shavian 4 Siletto 6 Erre 7 Star-spangled 11 Schnapps 13 Flea-pit 16 Brag 19 Viol

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